



# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province

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## A Call to Be Prophets

As Jesus disciples, we welcomed the New Year with grace, a fresh call and an opportunity to continue journeying with the Master, with a genuine desire to follow Him more closely, to learn from Him day-by-day and to allow Him to keep molding us into His image and likeness.

Looking back at the past year, we may all certainly find reasons to sing our Magnificat in thanksgiving for the many graces that the Lord has showered upon us.

Likewise, we would all probably have to admit many shortcomings, infidelities, struggles and failures, humbling reminders that we hold God's treasure of faith and vocation in earthen vessels. Being aware of our limitations leads us to continually rely on God's mercy and fidelity in order to dare to move on with serenity and trust, assured that, no matter what trial we face, we will always be held in God's hands, close to His caring heart.

While 2011 has gone into history as the year of Father Guanella's Canonization, 2012 is ushered in by the "spirit" of the "New Evangelization" that is blowing through the Church, rekindling in all its members a new passionate missionary zeal and fervor. The wind of the Spirit of Pentecost will certainly animate the upcoming remarkable events of the Synod of the Bishops and the simultaneous opening of the Year of Faith that Benedict XVI will inaugurate on October 11, 2012.

As we well know, the New Evangelization is the horizon toward which, both the Provincial and General Chapter, are oriented and focused.

As a Guanellian Congregation of apostolic life, we are called to review our way of "thinking and doing mission" in order to attune it to the ever changing demands and challenges of today's situations and the variety of contexts in which we strive to bear witness to the Gospel and to our specific charism.

Sons and disciples of a saint whom Pope Benedict, on the day of his canonization, introduced to the world as "Prophet and Apostle of Love", we see the Chapter's event has the place and the "kairos" to heed anew the call of the Spirit urging us to rediscover and reclaim the "Prophetic role" that is an integral part of the Religious Life vocation and charism. But what does true prophecy entail?

Perhaps it may be helpful to recall some of the biblical features of a Prophet:

- He is first and foremost open to the promptings of the Spirit.
- He experiences not only a special divine call, but also a very intimate closeness to God who enables him to speak on His behalf.
- He is in deep communion/empathy with the people to whom he is sent; he is able to perceive and feel the needs, pains and cries of his people with the eyes, ears



*“...while we now speak of evangelization and human promotion, Fr. Guanella repeated, ‘Give bread and the Lord.’ ”*

and heart of God and moves therefore to champion their cause.

- He denounces sins and abuses that are hurting human dignity and disregarding the Love-Covenant with the Lord.
- He consistently announces God's compassion, His truth, His justice, His special care for the oppressed and marginalized.
- He takes a courageous stand, shaking up people's conscience, disturbing the status quo when needed.
- He leads by example, instilling hope, showing the way, articulating God's vision.
- He reads the signs of God's presence in the world, both in the good and bad times, becoming himself a sign, a pointer to a God who cares and who is always concerned with the affairs of His children and the destiny of the world.
- He is not afraid of facing criticism, oppositions, insults, persecution and even death in order to be faithful to God and to His mission.
- He remains fully aware of his own weakness and vulnerability, humbly acknowledging his need for God's strength and forgiveness.
- He himself undergoes the change that he dreams for others and that he expects from his people.
- He is fully accountable to those whom he leads and serves.
- He is credible because he himself becomes "Good News," being a witness before and beyond his role as speaker.

The New Evangelization is in absolute urgent need of men and women who, because of their religious consecration, their total freedom and availability for the Gospel, are ready to live and act as true Prophets.

The profile of the new apostles and communities engaged in "New Evangelization" should reflect the features of genuine Prophets.

The real new missionaries are the saints.

That is what we continually hear, read and pick up from the voice of the Magisterium, from the Shepherds of the local Churches where our communities are inserted; from people who are seriously concerned with and involved in the care of the youth, families and the poor; from all those who look at Christians for enlightenment and guidance in our confused, fragmented, secularized society.

"The New Evangelization requires the ability to start anew, to go beyond borders. New Evangelization is the

opposite of self-sufficiency and the tendency of locking ourselves up into our comfort zones; it disturbs and shakes up the status quo mentality; it calls for courage to dare to take new paths considering the changed situations and the new emerging appeals..." (Synod Lineamenta 5...12)

May the venue of our Provincial Chapter, to be started soon in Manila, become a Cenacle where the Spirit of Pentecost is invoked, welcomed and attentively listened to.

May the "Prophet and Apostle of Love," St. Louis Guanella be among us to inspire, encourage and guide us "to imitate his pastoral sensitivity and faith in addressing the needs of our time, ... in submitting our lifestyle and mission to a constant discernment... in pursuing faithfulness to the charism and effective witness in the local church." (Const. # 72)

May the Spirit of Prophecy animate and sustain us in "responding to the invitations of the Providence, not being afraid to undertake courageous enterprises." (Const. # 72)

In prayer, let us wish one another a fruitful Chapter experience,

To all, a blessed and grace-filled New Year!

*Fr. Luigi*

## From the Provincial

### January Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Manila:** Guanellian Family Celebration at DSMP house
- 7 **Manila:** GLM formation Meeting
- 11 **DPP Council Meeting via Internet**
- 18 **Manila:** Fr. Piero Lippoli and Fr. John Paul arrive
- 21 **Manila:** Arrival of other Chapter Delegates
- 22-28 **Manila:** DPP Second Provincial Chapter
- 30-31 **Manila:** DPP Council Meeting

### 'Chapter Season'

Approximately two and half years after our first DPP chapter celebration in Bangalore, India, the Lord is gathering us for our second Chapter in Manila, Philippines. The countdown is on and full speed preparation for the event is underway. I am renewing the appeal that I launched with the November 29, Convocation Letter and again through our December News letter: let us intensify our prayer, begging the Lord for

the grace of a fruitful Chapter called to offer our humble and courageous contributions to the Church mission, envisioned and proposed as “New Evangelization.”

Let us involve in this prayer support network our Sisters, our GLM friends, our parishioners and residents, our good children and all the poor we are touching in our ministry. May our Province Project aim at re-launching a genuine missionary spirit and a more prophetic witness to the Gospel in every confrere and community.

Once again I remind the Chapter delegates to reach Manila on time, spiritually charged and well prepared to offer concrete reflections/proposals for an effective clear formulation of our Province Project, in line with the Chapter’s main theme. The reading of the next Synod Preparatory “Lineamenta” (easily downloaded from website: vatican.va) is highly recommended (also see suggested texts in December Newsletter page, 2).

As we receive fraternal prayerful support from other portions of the Congregations, I invite you to offer the same gift of prayer for the fruitful celebration of the following Gaunellian family events:

- Jan. 2-6** General Assembly of African Delegation, Ibadan, Nigeria
- Jan. 8-14** XIV Chapter of Sacred Heart Province, Barza d’Ispra, Italy
- Jan. 23-28** XIV Chapter of St. Joseph Roman Province, Rome, Italy

May the Holy Spirit renew the face of our Guanellian Communities and Mission!

### **Violent Cyclone Strikes Cuddalore**

While trying to mobilize support in Manila for sending signs of solidarity to thousands of victims of a deadly typhoon that hit the southern islands of the Philippines right before Christmas, we received the sad news that a cyclone had devastated Cuddalore – Ponducherry, India, leaving about 47 dead and much property damaged. Our Cuddalore community was not spared by that calamity. We are thankful to the Lord for protecting our confreres and the nearby community from physical injury, but we cannot ignore the urgent need of assistance that the repair work of our damaged building will require. In the family spirit, sensitive to members in distress and need of help, I ask every community in India to share an amount, fruit of community sacrifice, as a solidarity contribution for the most urgent repair work in Cuddalore Seminary, Boys Home and Parish. Any donations should be sent to the Vicar Provincial in Chennai who will forward them to the Cuddalore community. Likewise, I ask the communities in the USA, Philippines and Vietnam to extend the same helping hand, according to the available local recourses. An estimate of the cost of the damages will be soon revealed. It is in difficult moments that fraternal life emerges and is strengthened. *(see page 5 for photos and more details)*

### **Treasuring the Visit to Nigerian Communities**

As I have already shared, my visit to our Nigerian



communities has left a deep impression on my heart and in my memory. I thank the Lord for the grace of experiencing fraternal communion and Guanellian family spirit in the portion of Africa, where our confreres and young seminarians are giving witness to the charism and mission of the Congregation. I particularly admired the joyful way of celebrating and praying, and their adjustment to a life of simplicity where what we may take for granted, like electricity and other basic commodities, are still considered a luxury. The striking signs of poverty visible on the people’s face,



many of whom I have seen during my short visit, is a powerful reminder to we religious to continue embracing a simpler and humbler lifestyle that makes us consider superfluous what appears necessary, thus opening new paths to a clearer and more credible witness of our consecrated life.

### **Prayerful Support**

Our Indian confrere, Fr. Joseph A, has asked for permission to attend a Spiritual Renewal course. While we accompany him with our prayer, I want to thank the Thalavadi confreres who will carry on the precious service to the poor, sowing seeds of hope in many homes and villages.

We extend again our fraternal condolences to Fr. Adaikalam for the death of his maternal grandfather, Mr. Varapresadam, on January 2nd. His funeral was held at Melaneduvay of the Andimadam Parish on January 3rd.

# Philippines

## Rotary Club Brings Christmas Cheer

**MANILA** - To celebrate Christmas, some people go shopping at Malls and exchange gifts with their family and friends; other people visit the sick in hospitals and visit charity institutes in order to help the poor. The month of December was very significant for our special children; in fact the whole month was very busy at the Guanella Home because many people brought joy and happiness by visiting them, giving them gifts and offering them meals. The Rotary Club of Metro Manila spent the whole afternoon, December 18th, at the Guanella Home visiting the children, offering them lunch and giving them gifts. The children, about 200 from the Guanella Home and surrounding area, happily received the Christmas gifts and showed their gratitude by performing some cultural programs for the visitors and members of the Lions Club.



## Nativity Celebrations

**MANILA** - Filipinos are noted for having the longest Christmas Celebration in the world, spanning from September to December; and just as the Holiday Season was approaching its penultimate moment at the commemoration of the Birth of the Holy Redeemer, the Guanellian Family in Quezon City gathered to celebrate the 169th birthday of our newly canonized founder, St. Louis Guanella. December 19, 2011, the



Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence began the all-day celebration with common

Midday Prayer and a luncheon. A dinner program brought together all the Lay Cooperators, benefactors and friends of the Quezon City community. The day's events came to a close with the Eucharistic Celebration at 8pm, marking the 4th night of the traditional "Simbang Gabi", Novena Masses otherwise known as Misa De Gallo.

## Two Precious Gifts for Christmas

**MANILA** - The Quezon City community has received two priceless treasures with the arrival Carlo and Tommy just a few hours before the Christmas Eve celebration.

Both of them are children with special needs from Elsie Gatches, a government charitable institution located in Paranaque City that houses more than 400 people with mental and physical impairment. Tommy, a cute little boy who loves to dance, is afflicted with Down syndrome while Carlo, who shows interest in basketball, suffers with hydrocephalus. Their transfer to Guanella Home for Special Children was made possible by Fr. Luigi and Fr. Charlton after evaluations and talks with the administration of Elsie Gatches. Tommy and Carlo's warm welcome to our Guanellian family was especially meaningful as it was during the Christmas Eve Mass celebrating the nativity of Christ. Indeed, unto our human family a Child was born, and unto our Guanellian family two abandoned special children were given two precious gifts at Christmas!



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## Cyclone Thane Crosses Tamil Nadu Coast - 47 Killed

**CUDDALORE** - Friday December 30, 2011 Cyclone 'Thane' claimed 47 lives as it hit the Tamil Nadu coast, leaving a trail of death and destruction and throwing life into chaos in Cuddalore and the neighboring territory of Puducherry. Cuddalore bore the brunt of the cyclonic fury, accounting for multiple deaths and serious property damage.



'Thane' crossed the coast between Cuddalore and Puducherry bringing in its wake torrential rains accompanied by gale force winds that uprooted hundreds of trees and electric poles, and knocking out power supplies. Tiny Puducherry was cut off from the neighboring districts in Tamil Nadu, with uprooted trees blocking road traffic.

### Status of the Cuddalore Community:

Our community is famous for its buildings, beautiful gardens, flowers, and landscaping. Everyone admires our grounds. On Friday night, around two o'clock in the morning when all were asleep, the cyclone struck. Unexpectedly, heavy winds began to blow with rain and a strange sound. We woke up and tried to close all the doors and windows, but couldn't, because everything happened so quickly. The following is a summary of the damage we incurred on our properties.



### Don Guanella Boys Home, St. Joseph's Minor Seminary and Sagaya Matha Parish:

1. 500 meters of compound fell down.
2. Approximately 950 banana trees were knocked down.
3. Approximately 600 coconuts trees were damaged, stripped of their leaves, and broken into pieces.
4. More than 600 teak wood and other valuable trees were knocked down.
5. The children's play park was damaged badly.



6. All of our outdoor Saints statues were broken in pieces.

7. Our main gates were damaged along with several other iron gates.

8. Roofs were damaged, including the Boys Home roof used for drying clothes, the Parish rectory roof, the cow shed roof, Mr. Anthony's roof and our Boys Home car shed were damaged.



9. Damage was sustained to all the new frame pictures of Founder 16, the natural scenery wall posters, the wall clocks, charts, bulletin boards and many other items were thrown out and broken.



10. We lost 25 sets of doors, 32 bath room doors, 55 windows, 34 ventilators, 19 desks, 8 SJS chapel windows, 22 broken chairs, 17 tables, 30 buckets, many cloths and all the belongings and books of the students were damaged.

11. The flag hoisting pillar fell down, and the church roof and car shed roof in the parish were damaged.

It will take more than ten days to return to

normal life, and many roads were cut off completely. So many people are suffering, especially those who are living in the huts. Everywhere there



is flooding, and no facilities to fulfill basic needs. Finally, some have come to reside in our premises, where we provide them with food and shelter.

# United States

## Laity Bring Christmas Joy to SLC

**CHELSEA** - Many generous people showed their love for the special residents of St. Louis Center through their gift giving, financial contributions, and service. On Sunday December 4th, the family of Jack Tocco came to St. Louis Center from north



of Detroit, and brought gifts for all of the residents, along with Santa Claus and beautiful music. Later that week, Tim and Shannon Patton of Ann Arbor, MI held a fundraiser in their home to assist the future building renovation needs of the residential areas on Thursday December 8th. Finally, the St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council joined with the Servants of Charity community to celebrate Christmas and the successes of 2011.

## Guanella Descendant Visits Springfield

**SPRINGFIELD** - A descendent of St. Guanella surprised the Springfield community with a visit. Mr. Richard



Guanella and his wife came to Philadelphia for family reasons. Knowing that Guanellians were working there at an

institution for the mentally impaired, they stopped by for lunch. His grandfather, Augustus, was born in Campodolcino in 1887, immigrated to the United States, went back to Italy for a while, and in 1910 returned to America for good and got married. However, his relation to St. Louis Guanella is through his mother, a Trussoni. They are overjoyed to be members of Guanella's family and we reminisced about the canonization and the many descendants who emigrated here from the St. James Valley, the Valley of Saints. Richard revealed his hope to have the Servants of Charity celebrate the first anniversary of the canonization in Genoa City, WI, his hometown.

## Shrine Expansion Speeds toward Completion

**GRASS LAKE** - The construction of the expansion of the St. Joseph Shrine Chapel continues to make progress as the contractors speed toward an Easter completion date. According to Provincial Treasurer Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, "We expect the contractors to have the inside finished and



ready for Masses by Easter weekend. This expansion will add 100 more seats for pilgrims wishing to share the experience of St. Joseph's Shrine when large groups arrive in buses from other areas." The St. Joseph Shrine has become a popular destination for people of faith who enjoy visiting shrines around the country as part of their spiritual journeys.

## Christmas in Rhode Island

**EAST PROVIDENCE** - Christmas! It's a magical word that draws young and old into a special frenzied anticipation of something beautiful, the Birth of Jesus. Students at Sacred Heart School diligently prepared and performed a Christmas Concert and Carols directed by Mr. Philip Desrosiers, music teacher and band director. The first graders, under the watchful supervision of their teacher, Mrs. Sharon Chalmers, performed the Christmas Pageant twice, at the Christmas Mass for the school and at the Christmas Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church for the parishioners. Both events congregated many families and relatives, eager to joyfully celebrate the Birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and sing with parishioners and friends: O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!



## Christmas - Latino Style

**DELAWARE COUNTY, PA** -The Hispanic Catholic

community ministered by the Servants of Charity spiritually walked with the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Defender of Life, to Bethlehem with faith and joy. For nine



evenings, the different ethnic groups, who originate from 80 different countries, went door to door to bring to life the anxiety and suffering of Joseph and Mary as they looked for a place for the birth of Baby Jesus. The representation of the historical event was an occasion for spending time in fervent prayer with the host family each evening. On Christmas Eve, a thousand Latinos processed to St. Alice Church, Upper Darby, accompanying Mary and Joseph to the manger. The statue of Baby Jesus passed from hand to hand and devoutly kissed by all kneeling on the floor before being laid in the manger at the altar. The event was a great occasion to evangelize and display their cultural heritage and Catholic faith which seems to be under assault in their adopted nation. The parade of colorful participants, the statues of the Holy Family, saints and angels were impressive and moving.

## Two Bishops Celebrate GLM Mass

**CHELSEA** - A grateful parish community at St. Mary

in Chelsea, MI celebrated a special Mass of thanksgiving for the Canonization of St. Louis Guanella on the evening of Saturday



December 17, 2011. The Mass was concelebrated by the Servants of Charity priests and the two senior bishops of the Lansing Diocese; the Most Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea; along with the Most Rev. Bishop Emeritus Carl Mengeling. St. Mary parish was filled to capacity for this Mass, which included six members of the Servants of Charity community, as well as Msgr. Steven



Raica, the Chancellor of the Diocese. The 4th Degree Color Corp of the Knights of Columbus was present to add dignity and color to the service, and a large reception was held at the parish hall at the conclusion of the event.

## Guanellian Family Gathering

**SPRINGFIELD**- The Guanellian Family gathered on December 17th to recall the canonization and reflect on what the Lord is asking us to do for Him. The meeting began by viewing videos and photos of the canonization events in Rome and countries where Guanellians are present.

Dr. Noreen Yoder spoke of her devotion to Father Guanella, which began at a young age. Later, she worked as a professional for the Servants of Charity. She shared that the first miracle of Father Guanella happened when she suffered a tragic car accident in her twenties. She was in a grave condition and the relic of Father Guanella she carried and many prayers through his intercession reversed the situation. She fully recovered; however, doctors told her that she could never bear any children. After marriage she had two healthy boys. She strongly believes that it was a miracle through Father Guanella. It was Noreen who provided the relics to the Glisson family.

The second part of the meeting focused on a presentation by Father Paul Oggioni: "Saint Louis Guanella: God's Gift to the Church and World in his Time and Today." He explained the vocation and mission of Father Guanella.



Dr. Francis McNasby, pediatrician at St. Christopher Children Hospital in Philadelphia, gave the closing address. He came to know the Servants of Charity by chance and desires to share his medical experience with children affected by different disabilities in Chester.

## January Calendar of Events

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 6 The Epiphany of the Lord  
Manila: First Friday Adoration
- 7 Manila: Guanellian Cooperators Meeting  
Springfield: Recollection
- 9 The Baptism of the Lord  
Glenolden, PA: Parish School - Holy Child Association Awareness
- 10 Secane, PA: Parish School - Holy Child Association Awareness
- 14 Chelsea: boys Vocational Retreat  
Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls Group
- 14-15 Manila: Vocation Seminar
- 17 Chelsea: Aktion Club Meeting
- 21 Manila: Monthly Recollection  
Philadelphia: Meeting with Catholic Medical Association
- 22-28 Manila: Provincial Chapter
- 23 Day of Prayer: For Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- 24 Chester: Hispanic Pastoral Meeting
- 25 The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
- 29 Chelsea: Italian American Culinary Extravaganza to benefit SLC
- 31 Feast of St. John Bosco

## Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 3 Fr. Kuriakose: feast day
- 5 Fr. Paul Arokiaraj C: birthday
- 6 Nov. Paul Dhinakaran: birthday
- 7 Bro. Charles: birthday
- 11 Bro. Jegan Patrick Daniel: birthday
- 14 Fr. Selvaraj: birthday
- 22 Fr. A Periyananaga Samy: birthday; Fr. Vincent, Bro. Vincent: feast day
- 23 Fr. S Periyanyaga Samy, Fr. A Periyanyaga Samy, Bro. A Perianayaga Samy, Bro. Periyanyagam M: feast day
- 31 Fr. John Bosco: feast day



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