

NEWSBITS
OF THE
GUANELLIANS
IN THE
PHILIPPINES

The Servant of Charity



CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE

APRIL 2010

Serve the Lord with joy and gladness

STALIN AROCKIARAJ SAVARIMUTHU

"As long as there are poor to be assisted and distressed to be relieved, we shall never stop serving"

I am indeed delighted and happy to share my wonderful life experience in the Philippines. I am so excited that I was chosen for a mission in this Catholic country. I feel this mission is a continuation of the mission of Jesus on earth and I had very magnificent privileged to work with our special people. I believe our Charism has an eternal significance and so the great commission was given to every follower of Jesus and we need to share the Good News wherever we are.

With all my weaknesses, limitations and shortcomings, I hope that I shall be able to share the good news with the treasures of our congregation, the special children. Truly, this one year of my mission molded me in many ways and it gave meaning to my life. As St. Paul said

"My life is worth

nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned by the Lord Jesus". As special children, they have a beautiful charism to teach us the way: to express happiness, smile, love, forgiveness, concern and care for one another and to assist and help one another in time of suffering. I am honored to be with them and know their own uniqueness .

I also learned through this experience that the special children must be loved because every heart is in need of love and that we must do small things but with great love. Two of the other special people who taught me so much were Tatay Antonio Mallari and Allizer Agulto. Through them, have encountered the real meaning of life with their own rich life experiences and lessons.



With Allizer at Guanella Home for Special Children



Bro. Stalin (right) with Bro. Arul (left), two of our Indian brothers who had a regency in Servants of Charity Tandang Sora community for ten months. They went back to India last April 14 to prepare for their Theological Studies. At the middle is Albert Ramos, our Shelter supervisor.

Indeed, I am grateful, truly grateful though I have no words, to all our Fathers, seminarians, lay cooperators, staff and friends for their inspiration, moral and spiritual support and encouragement in my mission experience. Let us live in the mercy and love of God.

"May the Lord grant to all, throughout their life, the joys of the Easter Alleluia!"

LUIGI GUANELLA



COMMUNITY OUTING AT BALARA POOL

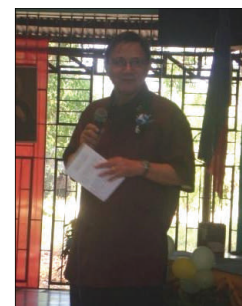
The Guanella Center had a community outing last March 19, 2010. where more than 300 people had participated most of which were well connected to our regular Guanella Center activities. Games and beverages were served and the participants, especially the children truly enjoyed the outing. In particular, some games were conducted to the children who came for our outing. The administration of Manila Water proprietor of Balara Pool, sponsored the said joyous occasion. (FR. ANTONISAMY SELVARAJ)



15TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND RECOGNITION DAY 2010

The Learning Program 15th Commencement Exercises and Recognition Day was held last March 26, 2010 at Servants of Charity-Guanella Center. The event began with a Doxology or opening prayer led by two of our pre-school students after which the national anthem was sung by Kimberly Aguilar and companions. Fr. Antonisamy Selvaraj made the welcoming remarks and proceeded to encourage the Learning Program children to keep up the values they learned from our Guanella Center.

After a group song, Program Director Fr. **Eduardo Cerbito** addressed the audience and commended the children for their hard work and their efforts, especially to the ones who received special awards. Then, guest speaker Dr. **Rodolfo Ybanez** delivered his speech which emphasized the remarkable discipline and uniqueness of the Guanellan special children. The event concluded with a chorus of commencement song sang by the children of our programs. (FR. ANTONISAMY SELVARAJ)



Dr. Rodolfo Ybanez,
guest speaker

MEDICAL MISSION SUNDAY

A Medical Mission Day was held at the Guanella Center last March 21, 2010. The said mission was spearheaded by the Rotary Club with Sis. **Baby Tan** as the main organizer. The Mission benefited families from the neighboring squatters area most of which were plagued by various diseases.



The Medical Mission began with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided by Rev. Fr. **Eduardo Cerbito**, Director of the Guanella Center. Soon after the Mass, about 500 people were given free check-ups by volunteer medical practitioners. (FR. ANTONISAMY SELVARAJ)



A COMMUNITY PILGRIMAGE



As part of the Lenten activities of the Servants of Charity Quizon City, the religious community along with the seminarians gathered together for a pilgrimage at the monastery of the Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Trinity in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Fr. **Domenico Saginario**, our spiritual director and collaborator in the seminary, gave a special talk on the special calling which we received from the Lord which was later followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. After a hearty lunch, the adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament was held. The pilgrimage was

later concluded with more prayers from the pilgrimage participants.



YOUTH WAY OF THE CROSS



Last March 12, 2010 the HKSF youth and the choir of Bogtong, Legazpi city were gathered together to participate the first Youth Way of the Cross held at the hill Kawa-Kawa, Legao Albay. The place was populated with many delegates from different parishes and schools where almost 3,000 people participated and also gave their warmest welcome to the new Bishop **Joel Baylon** of Legazpi Diocese. The

station of the cross was held with the guidance of bishops and priests where priests waited in different stations to hear confessions. Bishop [first and last name], in his homily, invited the youth to have love unconditionally, and to love with forgiveness and responsibility. (CESAR ESTILLER)



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT: *Deeply Rooted in God*

Trees that grow tall have deep roots. Great height without great depth is dangerous. The great leaders of this world - like St. Francis, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr., - were all people who could live with public notoriety, influence, and power in a humble way because of their deep spiritual rootedness.

Without deep roots we easily let others determine who we are. But as we cling to our popularity, we may lose our true sense of self. Our clinging to the opinion of others reveals how superficial we are. We have little to stand on. We have to be kept alive by adulation and praise. Those who are deeply rooted in the love of God can enjoy human praise without being attached to it. (HENRI NOUWEN)



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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Father, raise up among Christians abundant and holy vocations to the religious life and priesthood, who keep the faith alive and guard the blessed memory of your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments, with which you continually renew your faithful. Grant us holy ministers of your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SERVANTS OF CHARITY LEGAZPI CITY

LEGAZPI COMMUNITY CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY



Last March 17, 2010 a Family Day celebration was held at El Carlos Resort in Malabog, Daraga, Albay. It was a very memorable day for everyone not just for the fun and entertainment that marked the whole day affair but a moment that fostered closer and deeper relationships among the families of the



Guanella community in Legazpi's non-professional and professional personnel. The event also gave way to the welcoming of our two foreign volunteers- Francesca from Italy and Tim from England. It also served as a send-off event for **Jojo Bendicio** and **Cesar Estiller** who both just ended their postulancy in Legazpi. **(CESAR ESTILLER)**

LENTEN JOURNEYS IN LEGAZPI CITY

The annual Lenten Recollection for the Guanella Center - Legazpi staff, residents and the Feeding and Special Therapy and Education Program (STEP) parents was held last March 4 and 13, 2010 respectively. This year, two Handmaid of the Sacred Heart (ACI) sisters facilitated both recollections. Joining our staff and residents at the Augustinian Recollect Sister's House of Prayer and Spirituality was Sr. **Reylin**, ACI, while our Feeding and STEPS parents were under the accompaniment of Sr. **Beth**, ACI. The annual Lenten Recollection is aimed towards fostering a meaningful Lenten Pilgrimage for all our Guanellian Family members. **(CESAR ESTILLER)**



Vocation Corner



**IS GOD CALLING YOU
TO SERVE OTHERS?**

Servants of Charity

BROTHERS AND PRIESTS

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