

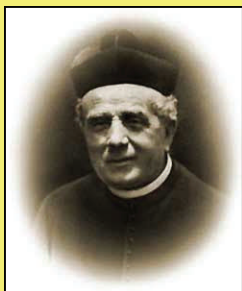
NEWSBITS
OF THE
GUANELLIANS
IN THE
PHILIPPINES

The Servant of Charity



CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE

FEBRUARY 2010



“Jesus is the friend who never abandons us. Your soul is very dear to Him. So come close to Jesus and listen to His words that are words of eternal life.”



Rest in Peace Dear Antonio

The Servants of Charity Community with the Staff and Volunteers mourn the death of one of the residents of our Home for the Handicapped, **Antonio Mallari** last January 23, 2010. He was 51.

Tatay Antonio was transferred from an institution for the physically handicapped to our shelter home in 1997. He was totally abandoned by his family, with no one to turn to. Since 1997 when he was transferred to us,



no relative or friend has ever visited Antonio.

We hope that in staying with the Servants of Charity, Antonio found a home, and we hope that he felt that he was special, that he was someone,

that he is worthy of love and deserved to share love as well.

Tatay Antonio had epilepsy, pneumonia and tuberculosis. He also could not walk nor feed himself that he had to be assisted in taking bath and had to be in diapers the entire time and was totally dependent to his caregivers.

But there's something beautiful in Antonio. He sings. He smiles. And even if he could not respond to say a little word of thanks to his caregivers, his smile is already understood as a re-

sponse of gratitude and love.

We want to share with you the letter of **Fr. Luigi de Giambattista**, Provincial of Divine Providence Province, on the death of Antonio:

Dear Confreres, seminarians, staff and friends of the Guanellian community:

Peace and blessings!

I have just received the news of the return of Tatay Tonio to the House of the Father. We thank the Lord for entrusting this special brother to our care for many years, during which we have experienced the privilege of loving and serving Tonio as a special image of Jesus in our Shelter Home. His departure for heaven leaves an empty space in our Home, ready to be filled with another special child.

As you give Christian burial to the body of Tonio, I am with you offering the Eucharistic sacrifice for the repose of his beautiful soul. I take this opportunity also to thank all of you for the care and love that you have shown to him in the past years, till the moment of his entrance into eternal life.

Let us continue to serve the Lord in our poor as instruments of his Providence

Rest in peace dear Antonio! A big hug also from my mom who has loved you as an adopted son.

*May God bless us all,
Fr. Luigi*

(The mother of Fr. Luigi and Antonio has the same birthday and she is his sponsor for his medical needs) (CV)

An Evening of Prayer with Young People

120 young people from different youth groups of Tandang Sora area with some religious men and women attended the Taizé prayer and songs organized by the Guanellian Youth Ministry headed by Seminarian **Alfie Matulac**. It was held last January 23, 2010 at Blessed Guanella Center for the intention of the upcoming International Pilgrimage of Trust organized by the Taizé Brothers from February 3-7, 2010 at Don Bosco Makati. The Taizé community is an [ecumenical Christian monastic order](#) in [Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France](#). It is composed of a little over 100 brothers who come from [Catholic](#), [Orthodox](#) and [Protestant](#) traditions. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. May our young people continue to find the strength and meaning of their following of the Lord through prayer, scriptures and solitude that the Taizé community has generously shared. (CV)



A VOCATION ENCOUNTER

In a joint assembly marked with camaraderie and friendship, the gathering among Bicolano Gaunellian seminarians and search-in participants at Harong Kan Sagrada Familia in Legazpi City was a memorable experience and a meaningful encounter for both the seminarians and those discerning to join our congregation. Slated last December 29 and 30, 2009, the event started with a Recollection preached by **Fr. David Anbu, SC**. The recollection was the spiritual side of the event marked with profound sharing of life's experiences and meaningful insights that afforded the gathering a prayerful encounter as they journey in their vocation discernment.

The second day of the gathering was spent on a nearby beach resort in Bacacay, Albay where all seminarians and search-in participants had a grand time unwinding, swimming, playing and eating together. Capping the 2-day gathering was the exchanging of gifts that was preceded by a short program with on-the-spot creative presentations. The annual gathering hosted by the Legazpi community brought together 6 Bicolano seminarians from our Quezon City community, our 2 postulants and lone aspirant in Legazpi and 18 search-inners coming from all over the Bicol region. Kudos to **Fr. Kuruz Mahesh Benson**, our vocation promoter in Bicolandia and we thank as well the presence of **Bro. Alfred Alamer** and **Bro. Arul Savarimuthu** who graced the said event. (Cesar Estiller)



YEAR FOR PRIESTS: Guanellians at the Clergy Congress

With the theme "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of the Priest," Six of our Guanellian priests participated in the recent Second National Clergy Congress held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from January 25-29, 2010. Around five thousand five hundred priests from all over the country and some neighboring countries graced the five-day retreat-congress. **Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap**, preacher to the Papal Household in Vatican was the retreat speaker while **Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle** of the Diocese of Imus gave a conference on the Pastoral Implications of the talks of Cantalamessa. Congratulations and let us pray for the perseverance and holiness of all our priests. (cv)



QUOTA INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS DENTAL MISSION TO LEGAZPI FEEDING KIDS

Last December 19, 2009, 100 children coming from indigent families around the city of Legazpi got a free dental check-up from the Quota International-sponsored Dental Mission held at the Multi-Purpose Pavillion of Harong Kan Sagrada Familia. 50 children of the 100 recipients of the free dental check-up were kids coming from the feeding program ministry initiated by our Servants of Charity community in Legazpi City while the rest were street kids under the care of the Sri Lankan religious nuns belonging to the Sisters of Charity. A sumptuous free lunch was also served to the children aside from the Christmas gifts given by the organization. Quota International is a globally known civic organization looking after the welfare of children around the world. (Cesar Estiller)

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

CONCLUSION OF RISK OF EDUCATION SEMINAR

The Concluding Session of the Basic Training Course on the book *Risk of Education* by Fr. Luigi Giusanni, founder of the Catholic Movement Communion and Liberation was held last Saturday, January 23, 2010 at Servants of Charity Seminary. For six Saturdays, Mrs. Malou Samson guided the group of Guanellian seminarians and priest with some staff and neighboring religious sisters, in understanding better the kind of education that Fr. Giusanni suggests in his book. One of the participants commented that *“I’ve learned in attending this seminar that education is supposed to be an education to totality. That whenever we educate, whether in formal or informal setting, we have to always consider that we are in front of a person, and that we have to help the person develop and grow integrally and totally.”*



Mrs. Samson, a Guanellian lay cooperator, a university professor and corporate executive of Manulife Philippines. She is the responsible of the Communion and Liberation Movement in the Philippines, an international movement founded by Fr. Luigi in Italy which proposes an advocacy for finding reasons and meaning into one’s belief and inner conviction, thus creating a positive impact and ripples of change in the world at large. (CV)

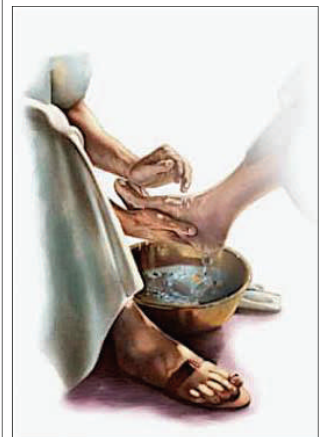


SPIRITUAL INSIGHT: *The Water of the Servant*

“He poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” John 13:5

To place our feet in the basin of Jesus is to place the filthiest parts of our lives into His hands. In the ancient East, people’s feet were caked with mud and dirt. The servant of the feast saw to it that the feet were cleaned. Jesus is assuming the role of the servant. He will wash the grime-est part of your life.

If you let Him. The water of the Servant comes only when we confess that we are dirty. Only when we confess that we are caked with filth, that we have walked forbidden trails and followed the wrong paths... We will never be cleansed until we confess we are dirty. We will never be pure until we admit we are filthy. And we will never be able to wash the feet of those who have hurt us until we allow Jesus, the one we have hurt, to wash ours. (Max Lucado)



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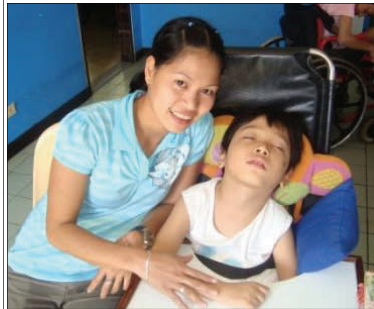
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

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.



BE OUR MISSION PARTNER

**SHYRIL: A Volunteer at Servants of Charity
Home for Special People**



Becoming a volunteer at Servants of Charity Home for Special People is one of the most memorable and fulfilling experiences one could have. Many times we think that when we offer our skills, talents and services to persons with disabilities in institution such as this, we are the ones who give to them, and they, the handicapped, are just receiving and benefiting from what we offer. While that is true, we cannot deny also the fact that we are not just giving to them, but we are receiving much from them as well.

Shyril B. Leonardo ended her volunteer work at Servants of Charity Home for Special People last January 30, 2010. Ate Shyril, as she is fondly called by our residents, spent more than three months cleaning the shelter, feeding some of the residents, assisting the boys in their daily routines, being present when they need her, and showing love as much as she can. While she helped them in many different ways, she has also received much from them: the value of patience, the importance of counting our blessings, simplicity, joy, love, and seeing Christ present in the disfigured bodies of the poor.

Thank you Ate Shyril. We assure you of our prayers for you. May the good Lord always bless your generosity.

Supporting our programs for the handicapped is not only by giving financial help. The Servants of Charity welcomes also volunteers who are willing to share their time and talents to our Servants of Charity Home for Special People and to our other programs for the poor. For more information, please call 456-8550. (CV)

Vocation Corner

For someone that you know who is considering the possibility of becoming a priest or religious:

**SERVANTS OF CHARITY
VOCATION SEARCH-IN 2010**

**February 26-28
March 19-21**

**FOR MALE COLLEGE STUDENTS OR
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

For more details text or email:

0915-648-0362

coviray@yahoo.com



*"I have called you by name, you are mine"
Isaiah 43:1*