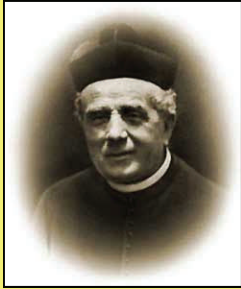


NEWSBITS
OF THE
GUANELLIANS
IN THE
PHILIPPINES



**“Conferring
with God
consistently
helps
charity
to be
kindled.”**

LUIGI GUANELLA



The Servant of Charity



CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE

JANUARY 2010

A SAINT FOR THE NEW YEAR



For all Guanellians around the world, our pilgrimage into the "Advent and Christmas Season" was ushered by the joyful news that the miraculous healing of a young American, **William Glisson** was, a divine and extraordinary intervention made

possible by God through the intercession of our Blessed Founder, **Don Luigi Guanella**. The news heralded a glorious moment in the history of our religious family, the Servants of Charity, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, our Lay Cooperators and Benefactors, and all the "little ones" in the world entrusted to us by God as it symbolically announces that the much-anticipated grace of canonization of our Blessed Founder is forthcoming.

What a confluence of meaningful and beautiful events! That as we stand along the threshold of a fresh beginning, after we bid adieu to the 100 years of our humble Guanellian journey; the Divine Providence is raising Don Guanella to the honors of the altar- as a Saint to guide us in our New Pilgrimage as a religious family in the heart of the Church and walking side by side with the poor and the most abandoned in our midst.

Indeed, for us Guanellians, the event that

took place in the once unknown and little Judean town of Bethlehem is always a fresh call ever summoning us to come, see, walk, share, touch and rejoice in the Emmanuel- the God who is always with us and ever present among us. The frail baby that was born in a sub-terrain cavern will always be our rallying point where we meet Christ daily in the Eucharistic Bread that we break everyday and in the many broken realities in our world that calls us to respond generously and love unconditionally.

The life of our Blessed Founder is a reminder to us Guanellians, that our beautiful vocation as SERVANTS OF CHARITY is to constantly retell the profound mystery of the Incarnation by proclaiming with gladness the wonderful Christmas story- that Christ is present among us in the distressing disguise of the wounded, abandoned, disfigured, handicapped, broken, vulnerable, hopeless, sick and dying persons we come to meet everyday along our journey. Bethlehem is where we are called to nurture and protect the sanctity of human life.

Thus, as the steps leading to the official proclamation of the Canonization of Don Guanella gets underway, may this new year carry us all around the humble crib of the Redeemer and with renewed missionary zeal spur us to strive to become leaven of the beatitudes in the midst of the world. The beautiful exhortation of the Pope for us Guanellians aptly resounds in the horizons of our hearts as we prepares for the dawn of new day in our Advent journey: "Servants of Charity, become saints yourselves." (**Cesar Estiller**)

New Priest for Quezon City Mission

As we celebrate the Year of Priests, the Servants of Charity Community of Quezon City welcomes with joy and gratitude our newly ordained priest, **Rev. Fr. Antonisamy Selvaraj**. Fr. Selvaraj was ordained last December 9, 2009 in South India together with another priest and eleven new deacons. We are blessed with the presence of Fr. Selva, as he is fondly called, who has accepted the invitation and has generously offered his availability to assist in the different ministries of Guanella Center. Fr. Selva has been assigned twice in Servants of Charity-Quezon City even before becoming a priest, first as a brother assisting in our Shelter Home for the Handicapped and then as a Deacon. Let us together pray for more holy vocations in our community and that Fr. Selva may always find the joy and strength in the Lord as a priest, servant and leader of God's people.



Fr. Selvaraj with the Ordaining Bishop

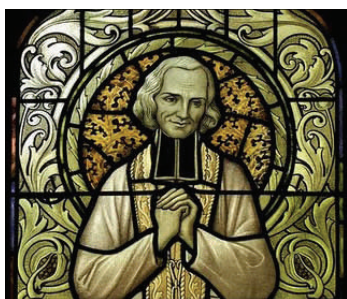
THE SPARK OF SOLIDARITY STARTS AT SUFFERING MOMENTS: Hospital Ministry at St. Luke's Medical Center

I am indeed blessed to minister the ailing at St. Luke's Medical Center who all came from various parts of the Philippines and from other countries as well. I have been doing such mission since August of 2009. First and foremost, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course has helped me perform my ministry well at St. Luke's. I have completed one quarter of this course, which is equivalent to three months, and as a result, I learned the skill of pastoral care to the ailing. As I had been doing this course, I was able to both visit and minister the patients.

Encouraged by my supervisor to learn to perform my job on my own, I learned to take the initiative to minister the patients which, I must say, were both challenging and adventurous. In the course of time I also learned so many great ways to minister the sick. I can definitely see the love and solidarity among the patients and their families together with their caregivers. Though these patients suffer from a debilitating disease, they are still surrounded by so much love. Their noble example taught me two things: The pain of sickness has led me to conversion –new understanding of life; The suffering moment of my decease has brought my family members more closer to me. (Fr. Antonisamy Selvaraj)



YEAR FOR PRIESTS June 2009–June 2010



“The priesthood is the Love of the Heart of Jesus.”

ST. JEAN MARIE VIANNEY

RECOLLECTION OF HKSF STAFF & RESIDENTS



It was a spirit-filled experience for our Harong Kan Sagrada Familia (HKSF), Servants of Charity-Legazpi City, Albay residents and staff as they come together for a one day Advent Recollection which was held last December 7, 2009 at the Trinitas Retreat Center, Bacacay, Albay. The primary objective of the said spiritual activity is to prepare oneself for the coming of Jesus and thanking God for the gift of Blessed Luis Guanella to the whole congregation as well as to the mother church.



Fr. Chandra Navis, SC, the Special Education and Therapy Program (STEP) Director and one of the speakers of the said retreat, focused his sharing on "Come and See Jesus in the Poor." The said talk encouraged the staff to become evangelizers of love for the poor and for our residents to be cheerful receivers of God's providence in the context of Guanellian Charism and Spirituality. Becoming servants and recipients of God's providence demands an authentic self-awareness and self-giving. Postulant **Cesar Estiller**, another recollection speaker, challenged the recollection participants on a genuine self-conversion and translating into action the practical side of the "Seven Mansions" (interior castles) of St. Therese of Avila. The core of the said recollection was the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr. Nevis,sc. The penitential rite was the moment of real reconciliation and renewal of commitment. Only words of "I'm sorry", "forgive me", "I love you" and "peace be with you" were coming from their lips, truly magic words of acceptance and love. During the offertory, they were asked to prepare something to be offered to the Lord, symbolizing their love and commitment to Him. The said spiritual activity was indeed a celebration of Love, anticipating the coming of Jesus in their hearts. (Alfredo Alamer)

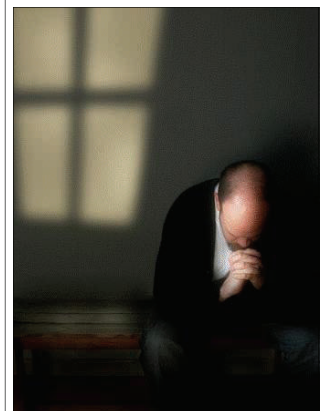
"If you cannot find love, put love and you will find it."

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT: *Letting Go of Old Hurts*

One of the hardest things in life is to let go of old hurts. We often say, or at least think: "What you did to me and my family, my ancestors, or my friends I cannot forget or forgive. One day you will have to pay for it." Sometimes our memories persist for decades, even centuries old and keep asking for revenge.

Holding people's faults against them often creates an impenetrable wall. But St. Paul said: "For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old order is gone and a new being is there to see. It is all God's work" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). Indeed, we cannot let go of old hurts, but God can. Paul says: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding anyone's fault against them" (2 Corinthians 5:19). It is God's work, but we are God's ministers, because the God who reconciled the world to God entrusted to us "the message of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19). This message calls us to let go of old hurts in the Name of God. It is the message our world most needs to hear. (Henri Nouwen)



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**SERVANTS
OF CHARITY
PHILIPPINES**

*20 Years of
celebrating
God's love in
the footsteps of
Blessed Louis*



BE OUR MISSION PARTNER



MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

We would like to express our sincerest and deepest gratitude to all the groups, individuals and communities who have shared their time and friendship, and supported the programs of Guanella Center and Servants of Charity Seminary last **Christmas Season.**

We assure you of our prayers for you and all your intentions.

**Servants of Charity Community
with the Special Children**



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

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

**January 29-31 February 26-28 March 12-14
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"I have called you by name, you are mine"