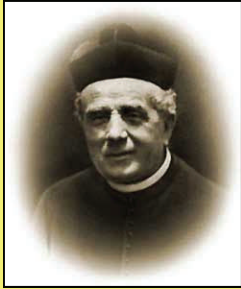


NEWSBITS
OF THE
GUANELLIANS
IN THE
PHILIPPINES



“In an excess of love, God created man innocent, in an excess of love, He redeemed him from guilt. In an excess of love God continues the great work of sanctifying man on earth.”

LUIGI GUANELLA



The Servant of Charity



CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE

MARCH 2010

Vocation Horizon in Bicol



With the aim of reaching out to a far wider horizon for vocation promotion in the Bicol Region, the Vocation Team of the Servants of Charity in Legazpi City had endeavored to widen their scope by visiting schools and parishes in the provinces of Camarines Sur, Albay, and Sorsogon. Comprising the team were our 2 postulants- Jojo Bendicio and Cesar Estiller together with the Vocation Promoter for Bicol- **Fr. Kuruz Benson, SDC.**

The result was quite very encouraging as we get a good number of interested applicants for our congregation and a regular flow of search-inners in our monthly search-in program. Last February 13 and 14, 2010, 48 young men from around the provinces of Camarines Sur, Albay and Sorsogon in the Bicol Region had gathered for the Search-in Program initiated by our Guanellian community in Legazpi City. The biggest number of participants was graduating high school students, a handful of university students and a young professional, yet, all were very open to discover whatever is God's will for them and were willing to give God a chance in their young lives.

With the big turnout of participants, our community had almost run out of place for accommodation. Indeed, the occasion was reminiscent of the biblical event where Christ fed a large hungry crowd. Nonetheless, the 2-day search-in program wrapped up successfully and had a meaningful impact on those who attended. They took cognizance on how the entire Servants of Charity community in Legazpi had afforded them with the Guanellian brand of hospitality and went back home with profound insights learned from their experience with our community, with one another, with our residents and the entire search-in process.



For sure not all of them will be entering our seminary, perhaps only quite a few will also be admitted in our religious community. But we hope and pray that the search-in experience will live through in their lives and the seed of vocation will germinate and blossom at a proper time, thus, creating springtime of vocation in the hearts of our young people for our congregation and for the local Church in the Philippines.

The Bicolandia is used to be known as a fertile ground for vocation to the priesthood and religious life but the influence of modern lifestyle and the distorted values that slowly creped along moral fibers of the young had somehow caused a downturn in the vocation barometer of the local Church.

Moreover, as we move around various places of the region, we saw a glimmer of hope. The surge of enthusiasm and the animated discussions with our young people on the sharing about life's journey, faith experiences and congregational input was of great interest for them. Yes, vocation promotion is a work of the Spirit and the Spirit works in various and mysterious ways, sometimes even in our humble effort of walking and making our presence felt in the often arduous and painful journey of our young people.

Along Corridor of Prison Bars

God in His mysterious ways will always lead us Guanellians by the hand to where He wanted us to be- to minister to the poorest of the poor and calls us to always discover new images of poverty in the post-modern world we are in. Thus, the initial encounter of Fr. Chandra Nevis, SDC with the prisoners of Legazpi City jail has led to a far greater ministry of presence, healing and reconciliation with those whom society considers to be living on the margin.

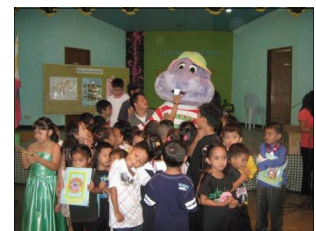
The regular Sunday Holy Mass at Legazpi City prison manifests the Guanellian spirit of compassion not just to the elderly, the abandoned youth, the handicapped and the special children but also to our brothers and sisters who found themselves lost and had fallen along the journey of life. Around 150 inmates together with the warden and jail guards attend the Holy Mass celebrated along the corridor of prison bars.

Joining Fr. Nevis in the prison apostolate were our 2 Guanellian postulants- Jojo Bendicio and Cesar Estiller who take turns in giving the reflections and sharing as well as Bro. Alfred Alamer-our erstwhile regent in Legazpi community. Ms. Nats Moyano and Mrs. Evelyn Vargas of the Legazpi City local government handle the Music and Liturgical Ministry respectively during liturgical celebrations.



ELOCUTION DAY: Illuminating the Inner Talents to Others

The Elocution Day was conducted in our Guanella Center on 19th February 2010. This day was indeed a colorful day for our learning program children who enjoyed the day by exhibiting their inner talents in the public place. The Elocution Day began with an opening prayer recited by our students. Fr. Antonisamy Selvaraj gave the inaugural address to audience, after which many of the learning program students participated in the Elocution. Most of the students did very well and they all received appreciations from the audience. Meanwhile, there was cultural program which gave boost and support to our students. Prizes were distributed to the winners as a token of our appreciation to them. **Fr. David Anburaj** gave the closing remarks with his words of appreciation. Finally the Elocution Day came to an end with the closing prayer. After the closing prayer the Chummy Chum Foundation distributed cotton candy and popcorn to our learning program children. Some of the staff from the foundation also entertained our children with cheerful dances and songs.



NOH SCHOOL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS ANNUAL CAMPING: CAMPING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

National Orthopedic Hospital (NOH)-School for Crippled Children and the Boy and Girl Scouts Annual Camping took place at our Guanella Center last February 25-26, 2010. The campers pitched up their own creatively-made tents upon arrival at the center. Fr. Eduardo Cerbito welcomed the participants with a welcoming speech. Afterwards, the group had a socialization activity where all the children exhibited their talents to the public. Activities included flag making, the investiture ceremony, cook fest, camp fire and clean up. In all the activities of these two day-camping, the children had a happy time and all partook in the activities with full enthusiasm. The camping was concluded with the closing ceremony conducted by the NOH School Officials.



A NEW VAN: A GIFT FOR GOD'S SPECIAL CHILDREN



We are printing here the letter that we sent to **Fr. Paul Oggioni and Fr. Fortunato Turati**, confreres from USA, instruments of Divine Providence, to thank them for the new van for special children and seminary use:

We the community of Manila glad to greet you on this precious occasion of Lenten Season. May the blessings of God be upon you during season. We too are grateful to your generous heart for having helped us to buy a new vehicle for our Gunellian mission in Manila. It was a great dream of our good children and us to have a new vehicle for the transportation of our good children. Now this dream has become true because of your fatherly support for our special children in Manila. Soon after seeing the new vehicle our good children are joyful, they prayed together with us for your intentions. In particular, we offered a special prayer for your good health as well as your grace-filled mission in our congregation. Wish you all the best. Take care. We all miss you here. Hope to see you some time here in Manila. We often remember you in our prayer. God bless you. Once again we thank you so much in the name of our community in Manila.

*Yours Faithfully in Christ
Servants of Charity-Manila*



VALENTINE'S DAY, THE DAY OF HEARTS

On behalf of Persons With Disabilities (PWD) parents, a Valentine's Day program was organized at our Guanella Center last February 15, 2010 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. This day was really a joyful day for all our special children who participated. The program was planned for the socialization for persons with disabilities. The opening remarks were delivered by Fr. David Anbu who greeted and appreciated everyone with words of love. Meanwhile games were also played which our children truly enjoyed the most. Refreshments, of course were also served.



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT: *God's Faithfulness and Ours*

When God makes a covenant with us, God says: "I will love you with an everlasting love. I will be faithful to you, even when you run away from me, reject me, or betray me." In our society we don't speak much about covenants; we speak about contracts. When we make a contract with a person, we say: "I will fulfill my part as long as you fulfill yours. When you don't live up to your promises, I no longer have to live up to mine." Contracts are often broken because the partners are unwilling or unable to be faithful to their terms.

But God didn't make a contract with us; God made a covenant with us, and God wants our relationships with one another to reflect that covenant. That's why marriage, friendship, life in community are all ways to give visibility to God's faithfulness in our lives together.
(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.



BE OUR MISSION PARTNER

**CELEBRATING THE GRACE OF PRIESTHOOD
IN LEGAZPI, ALBAY**



In a twin event celebrating the World Day of the Sick coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Thanksgiving Mass of our newly ordained priest, **Rev. Fr. Antonisamy Selvaraj**, more than a hundred elderly and physically disadvantaged people from around Legazpi City came to Harong Kan Sagrada Familia to celebrate the said event.

The meaningful Eucharistic Celebration held at Multi-Purpose Pavilion last February 11, 2010 was presided over by Fr. Selva with all the Guanellian confreres of the Legazpi community as concelebrants. A healing and anointing of holy oil for all the sick, elderly and handicapped was administered within the Holy Mass that was capped by the kissing of the consecrated hands of the newly ordained priest by all the faithful.

Fr. Selva presided over another Thanksgiving Mass on the Sunday that followed and the occasion was graced by the presence of the local superior of the Quezon City community- **Fr. Dong Cerbito**. In his homily, Fr. Dong highlighted the importance of the grace of priesthood in the Church and the selfless act that Fr. Selva did on the day of his ordination. Fr. Selva was ordained last December 9, 2009 in Cuddalore, India and has received his obedience to be a missionary in the Philippines. He is currently posted in the Guanellian community in Quezon City where he had also spent his year of regency and diaconate prior to his ordination to the priesthood.

Vocation Corner



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

Servants of Charity

BROTHERS AND PRIESTS

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