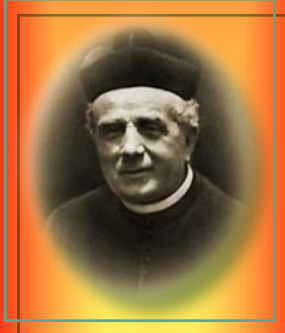


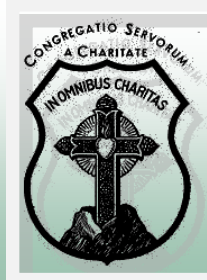
NEWSBITS
OF THE
GUANELLIANS
IN THE
PHILIPPINES



*What
God
wants
from
you is
your
heart.*



The Servant of Charity



CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE

March 2011

Superior General's Visit to the Philippines

The joyful occasion of the visit to the Guanellian Mission in the Philippines by Fr. Alfonso Crippa, SDC, Superior General of the Servants of Charity, bears a semblance of Providence and an element of historic value. For as the avalanche of joy brought about by the definitive announcement of Pope Benedict XVI of Don Guanella's canonization on October 23, 2011 start hitting the many religious houses of the congregation spread throughout the world, Fr. Crippa had just emerged from a solemn Eucharistic Celebration marking the opening of the Provincial Council Meeting of the Divine Providence Province. The Philippines received the joyful news from the Vatican at vesper time both with equal degree of solemnity and spirit of celebration. Our Superior General arrived in the Philippines from Rome last February 18 and was welcomed at the airport by Fathers Luigi and Domenico as well as by our two flag-waving special children - Raffy and Thomas. The following day, on the 19th of February, Fr. Alfonso went for a Pastoral Visit to our Legazpi Community. His return to Manila on the 21st marked the opening of the Provincial Council Meeting of the Divine Providence Province which he presided over. Welcome back to the Philippines our dear Father General! (Bro. Cesar Estiller)



The Superior General with the Council of Divine Providence Province (DPP) and Fr. Mimi with Thomas and Raffy welcomed the arrival of the Superior General in the Airport.

The Guanellan parents and the Sponsorship Program



Fr. Luigi shared some of his thoughts to the parents of the beneficiary of our Sponsorship Program at the Guanella Gymnasium.

Last February 8th 2011, a special meeting with the parents of Sponsorship Program children was held with the attendance of about 40 people. The meeting, held at the covered court of the Guanella Center, began with opening prayer followed by a talk given by Fr. Luigi de Giambattista, the Provincial Superior. His message highlights the finding Jesus through collaboration of parents in the mission activity, stimulating the interest of their children in the sponsorship program, the sincere responsibility of the parents towards their children, and attention to the pastoral concern. After the talk, everyone was given the chance to share their concerns and experiences in line with the sponsorship program with some of them ever sincere in expressing their personal feelings and trials from their day to day living. Most of them acknowledged the helping hand of God in their life struggles. The singing of The Lord's Prayer was also held, with all the participants holding hands in prayer. Finally the meeting came to an end with the blessings of Fr. Luigi and

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THE SHARING OF LOVE ON VALENTINE'S DAY



The special children with our Staff and Fr. Selva during the celebration of Valentine's Day.

The beautiful celebration of Valentine's Day took place at our Guanella Center last February 14. The celebration commenced with a learning program for the children where nearly 60 kids came to participate. In the afternoon, there were games, dance and song numbers, games, gift giving and refreshments involving about 50 disabled participants. The program began with an opening remark by Fr. Selvaraj.

The children, both disabled and otherwise, enjoyed the Valentine's Day by partaking in it actively and joyfully. The celebration for the

Learning Program children was facilitated by Teachers Marsha and Louis, while the celebration of People with Disabilities was facilitated by Albert and Mrs. Vilma Ramos. After that, the celebrations ended by prayer led by Fr. Selvaraj. (Fr. Antonysamy Selvaraj, SdC)



Fr. Selvaraj, our Assistant Director in the Guanella Center, gave the valentines gift to our Learning Program pupils

More than words can express...

Serving in the Servants of Charity was extraordinary especially when it comes to dealing with God's precious brethren known as the "special children". At first, I really admit to myself that I'm a little bit troubled and edgy to mingle with them. But as the days passed by, I realized, through my experiences, that they are friendly and are akin to family. I started to love and make friends with them. They may not utter the words of gratitude in response to all the good deeds you have done towards them, but you can really sense their complete joy—the kind of joy that expresses their gratitude more than words can express.

Being with them was a real blessing. The special children were not harmful like what I wrongly presumed. They are actually both friendly and humble. They lived much like normal children and the people around them help a lot with their kindness and hospitality. From these special children, I learned patience and how to practice the virtue of charity. I also observed that they live a very simple yet a life full of meaning. The society may shun special children but they will always find a home at the "Guanella Home for the Special Children", an institution that shall take good care for individuals with mental and physical disabilities. *(Syraxji Niña Lomuntad, DCLC Nursing Student)*



A smile that express more than a word...

STEP Celebrates Valentine's Day



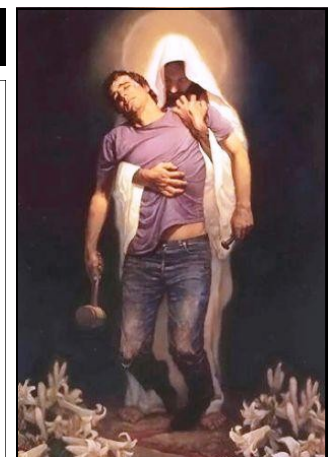
LEGAZPI - The children of the HARONG KAN SAGRADA FAMILIA Special Therapy & Education Program (STEP), celebrated "Day of the Hearts" with their parents February 14th. In order to prepare, they made valentines for their parents with help from the kids in the "Big Group." Early in the afternoon, the "big boys and girls" decorated for the party. The tables were set, the food was prepared and flower bouquets were made to surprise their parents. As parents arrived, the kids ushered them to their seats, a touching way to begin the event. Fr. Battista Omodei, the Superior, gave an opening message; the reason there is a Valentine celebration, the love that is shown to us through Jesus Christ. The children performed the song: "If We Hold On Together," and presented the bouquets and handmade Valentines to their parents as an expression of their love and respect. Everyone enjoyed the simple meal. (Fr. Benson Krus)



One of our students in the Special Therapy and Education Program posed with his mother and sister during the celebration of Valentine's Day.

FORGIVENESS, THE WAY TO FREEDOM

To forgive another person from the heart is an act of liberation. We set that person free from the negative bonds that exist between us. We say, "I no longer hold your offense against you" But there is more. We also free ourselves from the burden of being the "offended one." As long as we do not forgive those who have wounded us, we carry them with us or, worse, pull them as a heavy load. The great temptation is to cling in anger to our enemies and then define ourselves as being offended and wounded by them. Forgiveness, therefore, liberates not only the other but also ourselves. It is the way to the freedom of the children of God. (Henri Nouwen)



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**SERVANTS
OF CHARITY
PHILIPPINES**

*Celebrating
God's love in
the footsteps of
Blessed Louis
Guanella*



On The Wings Of Love



The Superior General with Fr. Luigi and Fr. Charlton posed with the Guanellian Youth after the Prayer for Vocation

In a rare moment where both the young and old, lay and religious, formators and formands, confreres and seminarians were gathered for an evening of prayer to beg the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into His vineyard. Such a moment can bear witness to the truth that a humble prayer to God has the power to touch many lives and can make miracles in a world that is constantly in need of compassion and redemption. The solemn evening adoration and prayer for vocations held at the seminary chapel of the Servants of Charity last February 23 summoned everyone present on that occasion to

reflect on the profound meanings of the beauty and richness of various vocations of the Church. The prayer vigil was interspersed with songs from the Guanellian Youth Ministry (GYM) and the vocation sharing of Novice Cesar Estiller. The event was graced by the presence of our Superior General, Fr. Alfonso Crippa, SDC and the members of the Provincial Council of the Divine Providence Province. (Bro. Cesar Estiller)



**SPONSOR A
SPECIAL CHILD**

**And be an
angel of hope
to God's poor**

Guanella Home for Special Children

**WHEN YOU BECOME
A SPONSOR**

- The seminary community and our special children will pray for you everyday.
- Your special intention will be remembered in our prayers.
- A special Mass will be offered for you on your Birthday.
- A special tribute will be given to you on our Day for Benefactors
- You will have the opportunity to help not only the poor but also those who offer and dedicate their lives in helping the poor.

Thank you very much!