



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

DIVINE PROVIDENCE PROVINCE

## Journey of a boat to the Root

- JERUSALEM TO EMMAUS



**Pianello Lario to Como - 140 Years - Como to India - 40 Years**

**Dear Confreres,**

**G**race and peace to you in the Risen Lord. As we enter into the sacred mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord, we are invited not merely to remember, but to journey. Easter is a living path a movement from darkness into light, from confusion into clarity, from Jerusalem to Emmaus. In this light, we are called to contemplate our own congregational journey: from Pianello Lario to Como and from Como to India.

### **1. Pianello Lario to Como - The Journey of Grace (140 Years)**

On the evening of April 5, 1886, a humble yet deeply prophetic event took place when the sisters were sent from Pianello Lario to Como to begin a new foundation with Sr. Clare Bosatta, Sr. Martina Silvetti, and four orphans. Their journey, undertaken in a small boat (*barchetta*), was marked by poverty, courage, and trust. They carried within them not material security, but the richness of the charism and a profound trust in Divine Providence, and reached the shore of Lake Como on April 6, 1886. Therefore, this Easter, which falls on the same day, has a significant mark in our life.

Today, Como stands as the living root of our charism and the sanctuary of our Founder. It remains a place where the spirit of the Founder continues to

inspire and guide us. This journey reflects the Emmaus experience, where the Lord walks with His disciples, often unrecognized, yet deeply present. In that humble crossing, the sisters carried the living experience of the Founder, reciting the Chaplet of Providence, and landed the following morning in Como, where a mission was born that continues to bear fruit even today, 140 years later.

## **2. From Como to India – The Journey of Mission (40 Years)**

Forty years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1986, on the solemnity of St. Thomas the Apostle the same spirit of grace reached Indian soil through the first humble step of our confrere, Rev. Fr. Titto Credaro. With simplicity, courage, and faith, the journey of the Servants of Charity began in India. This marked a significant and remarkable year in our Indian history.

We are deeply grateful to God and to our beloved pioneering confreres and Sisters who brought the seeds of mercy to the people of God. Their lives were marked by humility, sacrifice, and fidelity. They lived the Gospel through concrete acts of love among the poor, the abandoned, and those most in need. What we are today is the fruit of their silent sacrifices and unwavering dedication. Their journey continues in us, calling us to be faithful stewards of the charism we have received.

## **3. Call to Live the Charism amid Challenges**

As we stand at this moment of grace, we are also confronted with serious global realities. War, crisis, market crashes, and world economic instability have begun to cripple our resources and challenge our mission. Yet, this is not a moment of discouragement, but a call to deeper authenticity and trust in Divine Providence.

We are invited to accept these challenges with courage and spiritual discernment. This is a time to return to the essentials, to live with minimum resources, and to offer the maximum of ourselves. It calls us to embrace personal sacrifice, mortification, and a life of simplicity rooted in the Gospel.

In this context, our Superior General, wishing us Easter Blessings and speaking from the suffering reality of Congolese Africa, offers us a remarkable and prophetic invitation that must guide our response today: to live in true solidarity with the daily struggles of the poor; to love our people as Christ loves, through total self-giving; to embrace detachment from wealth with complete trust in Divine Providence; and to practice Eucharistic solidarity by avoiding waste at our table and sharing our lives generously with others.

#### 4. Easter Journey .....

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are called to encounter the Risen Lord, recognize Him in the breaking of bread, and return with renewed zeal to proclaim His presence. Dear confreres, take care of your health and well-being, remain rooted in Easter joy, and actively search, find, and send candidates for the vocation camp. Our mission continues wherever Christ is present in the poor.

**Happy Easter!**



**FR. GNANARAJ SDC**  
Servant of God's Love

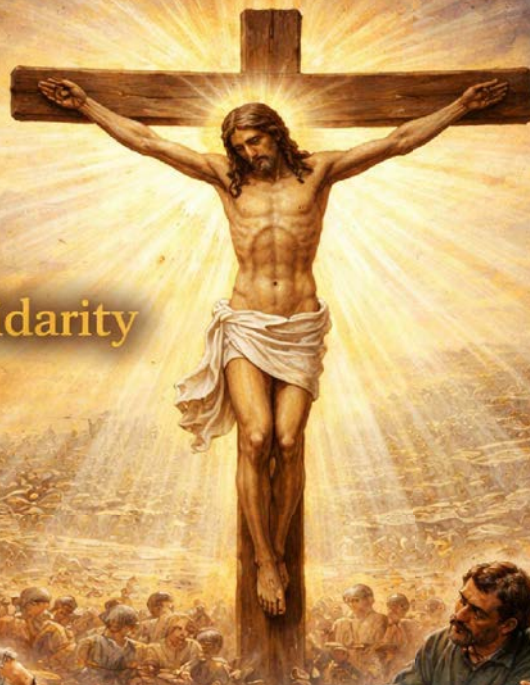
### **PROVINCIAL CALENDAR**

- 05/04/2026** – Easter Ministry
- 07-09/04/2026** – Plenary Council Meeting @ Cuddalore
- 13-14/04/2026** – Bangalore
- 15//04/2026** – Thalavadi
- 16/04/2026** – Kolli Hills
- 19/04/2026** – Vocation Camp @ Cuddalore
- 23/04/2026** – Election In Tamil Nadu



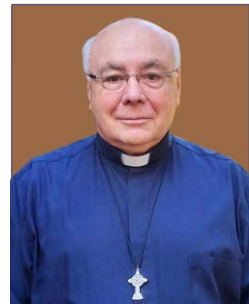
# The CROSS of CHRIST

the Place of God's Solidarity  
with Humanity



Dear Confreres,

**A**lmost at the beginning of Holy Week, I am experiencing, together with Father Vitus, the final stages of the canonical visitation to the communities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We began this visitation on 9 March.



The reality of the Congolese people is one of great poverty, often of destitution, yet lived with serene dignity and a strong spirit of sacrifice and hard work. The Congolese people are a people who, in order to survive each day, earn their living along the roads of villages and towns through the trade of their own produce. If they do not trade, they do not sell; if they do not sell, they do not obtain the money needed to eat and to feed their families. The streets thus become a hive of activity, ingenuity, and creativity, aimed at attracting the attention of passers by and persuading them to buy the goods displayed on market stalls or carefully arranged on a blanket laid directly on the pavement. One is struck by the constant flow of people, the coming and going, the clamour, and the way in which goods are presented as the freshest and the best.

*Our confreres told me this very clearly: if they do not sell, they do not eat; they do not live; they cannot support their families. It is here, dear confreres,*

that my reflection at the beginning of Holy Week takes shape. I said this very morning when meeting all the confreres of the Congolese communities: love your people as God loves them, by offering Himself for us on the cross. You are part of this people by birth. From this people, you have received life, faith, and the opportunity to enter religious life and to become priests. For their sake, God has called you, consecrated you, and sent you in His name to love them and to serve them on the journey of their lives. Not to take an interest in them, not to support them in the development of their lives, not to share their standard of living, is to fail to take an interest in, to support, and to share the lives of those whom God loves with a preferential love.

The chapter fathers of one of our General Chapters were truly right when they presented to us the perspective that “the poor evangelise us.” The poor help us to become united with God in solidarity; they sustain us by their example in becoming, day after day, *forma Christi*, making Him the centre, the meaning, and the goal of our existence. It is not essential to have a bank account or economic security for tomorrow; it is enough to be content with what life and work offer us each day. Certainly, we have works to maintain, and this is a great responsibility that requires commitment, but our hearts must not be attached to money. It is a matter of the solidarity of sharing rather than hoarding, of the willingness not to regard as essential for ourselves what is not even imaginable or dreamt of by many brothers and sisters. This is what Christ did on the cross. He made no distinctions: He loved everyone, paying personally for everyone, because everyone, without exception, is a son, a brother, or a sister.

As we celebrate Easter, dear confreres, let us avoid waste on our tables; let us, too, like Christ, become united in solidarity with those who, even on that day, will be hungry, will work until evening to live, and to help others live. Let us pray for them, that the Resurrection of Christ may strengthen their faith and enable them always to live their situation with dignity. Kinshasa, 29 March 2026.

HE IS  
**RISEN**

**Fr. Umberto**  
**Superior General**





The Guanellian Ongoing Formation School was held from March 17–19, 2026, at St. Joseph's Seminary. The gathering began with a prayer service animated by Sr. Punitha DSMP and the lighting of the traditional lamp. The participants and dignitaries were welcomed by Fr. Mathias, the Rector of the Seminary. A video recap of the previous Charism School held in Bangalore was presented by Fr. Francis Xavier SdC, Director of the Communication Center.

In his introductory address, Fr. Gnanaraj SdC, the Provincial Superior, highlighted the importance of the formation school and introduced the themes for the three days. The first session was led by Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, the Vicar General, who spoke on “The Primacy of God in Our Community Life.” The spirituality of St. Louis Guanella was reflected upon, emphasizing the balance between prayer and service and the need to keep God at the center of community life.

The second session was presented by Sr. Betsy DSMP on the relevance of Blessed Chiara Bosatta and her life of sacrifice and trust in divine providence. The third session, led by Fr. Ronald SdC, reflected on the charism of the Founder as lived by the early Guanellian fathers and sisters.

The second day began with prayer and the Eucharist, followed by presentations on Guanellian consecrated life, contemplation and sanctification, and the Guanellian



educational style, highlighting the importance of a ministry of presence, community life, and service to the poor. Recreational activities and a fraternal outing strengthened the spirit of unity among the participants.

The final day included reflections on the Guanellian charism and its contribution to the universal Church, presented by Fr. Gnanaraj SdC. The concluding session, delivered by Fr. Samson SdC, focused on special catechesis and creative liturgy for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, emphasizing inclusion and pastoral care within the Church, inspired by the vision of Pope Francis. The formation program concluded with a note of gratitude expressed by the Provincial Superior to the resource persons, organizers, and the community of the seminary for their hospitality. The gathering came to an end with Eucharistic adoration and prayers for peace in the world.



## RETREAT FOR PRIESTLY CONFRERES

**CHENNAI, DPP:** The Divine Providence Province organized the second batch of the annual retreat for the priestly confreres on March 23<sup>RD</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> at the sacred shrine of Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health. The retreat gathered priests from different communities of the province for a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. The retreat was preached by Fr. Sebastine Perriyannan, from the diocese of Tanjore who offered inspiring reflections on the priestly vocation and the call to deepen one's relationship with God. Through his meaningful talks, he encouraged the confreres to renew their commitment to their ministry and to grow in faith and service.



The retreat included moments of silent prayer, spiritual conferences, Eucharistic adoration, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Being at the Marian shrine of Velankanni added special spiritual significance as the priests entrusted their lives and ministry to the loving care of Our Lady. The retreat became a grace-filled occasion that strengthened the spirit of fraternity, prayer, and renewed zeal among the priestly confreres of the Divine Providence Province.

### REPLICATION OF THE STATUE

**CHENNAI, DPP:** The remodelling and faithful replication of the statue of **St. Louis Guanella** in India stand as a beautiful expression of devotion and faith. Rooted in the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2132), it is reminded that the honor given to sacred images passes to the person whom they represent. This sacred endeavor was not merely artistic but profoundly spiritual, reflecting deep love and gratitude. Modeled exactly after the original statue at Don Guanella Major Seminary, the replica has now been installed at St. Joseph's Seminary, the Indian Mother House.

St. Joseph's Seminary, known as a cradle of vocations, has generously offered nearly 147 priests to the Church in India. Through their dedicated ministry, the charism of St. Louis Guanella is continually carried forward in service to the poor and in trust in Divine Providence. The statue was graciously gifted by Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam on the occasion of his 30th year of priestly service, making it a meaningful symbol of gratitude and missionary commitment. Its solemn installation was held on March 19, 2026, the Feast of St. Joseph, giving the occasion profound spiritual significance. On this sacred day, the faithful were gathered not to worship the image but to venerate the holy person whom it represents. As taught in CCC 1192, sacred



images serve as windows to the divine and lead the faithful closer to God. The statue thus stands as a silent invitation to holiness, inspiring all who behold it to imitate the virtues of St. Louis Guanella. It also serves as a sign of continuity, beautifully linking the traditions of the Congregation across lands and generations.

### NEW BOOK RELEASE



On March 19, 2026, on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the book **Yosepidam Selvom** was released by the Don Guanella Communication Center at the Mother House of the Divine Providence Province, in the presence of priests, religious, and the faithful. The book was written by Fr. Edal, introduced by Fr. Francis Xavier, Director of the Communication Center, and released by Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Vice General. In this work, the spiritual heritage of the Church is reflected, with a focus on the virtues of faith, perseverance, and devotion as seen in St. Joseph. Readers are invited to grow in humility, service, and trust in God. The event was marked by a prayer service and a brief presentation on the significance of the book. Appreciation was expressed to all who contributed to the publication. Through this release, the commitment of the Don Guanella Communication Center to fostering spiritual growth has been reaffirmed. The book is now available to all who wish to deepen their understanding of St. Joseph's life and virtues.

### EXTENDS A HEALING HAND

**BANGALORE** – A special outreach program for the transgender community living in the areas of Hennur and Geddalahalli was recently organized by Guanella Preethi Nivas. The initiative reflected the culture of care inspired by our Founder, St. Louis Guanella, who called his followers to serve the most abandoned. Under the



leadership of Rev. Fr. Kulandai Sami SdC, meaningful steps were taken by the community to support and uplift transgender persons in Bangalore. During the program, essential provisions were distributed and health check-ups were conducted for the participants, many of whom experience social marginalization and have limited access to regular healthcare services.

Beyond material assistance, a ministry of presence was emphasized. By welcoming members of the transgender community to the campus, efforts were made to restore dignity and recognize each person as a Child of God. Holistic care was also provided through medical support and nutritional assistance with the generous help of local benefactors.

### SHARING AND CARING

**BANGALORE** – A wonderful opportunity to share compassion with the elderly residents was experienced by the GYM members of Guanella Preethi Nivas through a delightful dinner gathering. A special evening was organized with love and



dedication for the beloved grandfathers residing at the home. The meal was personally prepared by the youth with great affection and care. The evening was filled with smiles, laughter, and meaningful moments of fellowship. Time was spent listening to the stories of the residents, learning from their wisdom, and creating an atmosphere of joy and warmth. Though simple in nature, the gathering created lasting memories. It was once again reminded that true happiness is found in caring, sharing, and being present for one another.

### ONE-DAY LENTEN RETREAT FOR THE FAITHFUL



**KUMBAKONAM:** One-day Lenten retreat was organized on March 1 at Our Lady of Divine Providence Church for the People of God. The retreat was arranged by the parish priest to help the faithful prepare spiritually during the holy season of Lent. For this occasion, Rev. Fr. Amalraj, OCD, was invited to preach the retreat. The faithful actively participated in the spiritual exercises and were guided through reflections that helped them prepare themselves worthily for the celebration of Easter. Many of the participants also availed themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time of grace. The retreat was well organized, and lunch was provided for all the participants. The faithful expressed great joy and spiritual satisfaction in taking part in the retreat. The program concluded around 5:00 p.m.

### LENTEN PILGRIMAGE



**KUMBAKONAM:** A two-day Lenten pilgrimage was organized on March 7 and 8 to several historic churches and traditional parishes in the Dindigul region, including Rayyapanpatti Church. The pilgrimage was arranged by the parish priest to help the faithful prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Around 60 parishioners participated in this spiritual journey. At each church, the Way of the Cross was prayerfully conducted according to the schedule prepared by the parish priest. The pilgrimage provided the participants with an opportunity for deeper prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal during the Lenten season.

The faithful expressed great joy in taking part in this meaningful journey, which offered both spiritual enrichment and moments of fellowship through visiting sacred places. During the same period, International Women's Day was also celebrated in a joyful manner at the parish centers of Maramboy and Panjampatti in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dindigul.

### ZONAL RECOLLECTION



**THANJORE:** A Zonal Recollection was held on 11 March 2026 at Trinity Hospice during the fraternal visit of Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, the Vicar General. Confreres from the communities of Kumbakonam, Sivagangai, and Thanjavur participated in the gathering. The recollection session was animated by the Vicar General, who shared important updates about the congregation, including the canonical visit of the Superior General in Congo and the ongoing Chapter of the European Delegation in Parsa, Italy. He also referred to the recent Communion Letter concerning the preparation of the new Constitution and Regulations.

In his spiritual reflection, he encouraged the confreres to renew their prayer life and remain faithful in their mission. Drawing from the teachings of Pope Francis and the charism of St. Louis Guanella, he invited everyone to maintain a balance between prayer and ministry and to remain joyful missionaries of charity. The recollection concluded with Eucharistic Adoration and the celebration of the Holy

Eucharist. The gathering ended with a fraternal lunch, and gratitude was expressed to the Trinity community for their warm hospitality.

### FRATERNAL VISIT OF THE VICAR GENERAL



**THANJORE:** Trinity Hospice was filled with joy and gratitude during the visit of Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, the Vicar General. His presence brought encouragement and renewed strength to the community and its mission. During the visit, sincere appreciation was expressed for the dedication and committed service of the confreres. Despite the short span of time, the remarkable growth and various developments achieved in the mission were gratefully acknowledged. It was also noted with joy that the mission in Thanjavur continues to progress well and bear good fruits. The grandparents residing at the hospice were lovingly blessed, a staff meeting was conducted, and personal interaction was shared with the confreres. The visit became a source of inspiration for the community to continue the mission with renewed commitment, compassion, and faith.

### YOUTH ANIMATION AT TRINITY HOSPICE



**THANJORE:** Trinity Hospice continues to radiate its charism and mission among the surrounding communities with renewed zeal. As part of this effort, a youth animation program was conducted by Fr. S. Stalin through a seminar and orientation

on the Guanella Youth Movement. During the session, the young participants were encouraged to deepen their sense of purpose and service. Many youth responded positively and expressed their willingness to join the movement and walk in the path of compassion and charity inspired by St. Louis Guanella. The enthusiastic response of the youth has brought great hope for the future, as their readiness to serve those in need strengthens the mission and carries forward the spirit of Guanellian charity with renewed life.

### FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH



**THANJORE:** The feast of Saint Joseph, the loving patron of the dying and the destitute, was joyfully celebrated at Trinity Hospice with great devotion. The celebration was enriched by the presence of the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul from Adaikalamatha Church, whose participation brought warmth and unity to the occasion. The Eucharistic celebration was conducted in a solemn and prayerful manner, offering spiritual comfort and strength to all present. During the celebration, the Pious Union of St. Joseph was also introduced, inviting the faithful to pray for the sick and for the grace of a peaceful and happy death. The residents of the hospice experienced great joy as they were lovingly cared for and served a special meal. The feast became a beautiful moment of prayer and fraternity, renewing the mission of compassionate care for the sick and the needy.

### AWARENESS PROGRAM

**CHENNAI, DGSS:** An awareness program was conducted on March 25 at Don Guanella Special School. Mr. Kumar, the District Welfare Officer for the Differently-abled in Thiruvallur, visited the institution and interacted with the students. In view of the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections, awareness was created regarding the importance of elections and the value of the right to vote. The concept of social responsibility and the significance of participating in the democratic process were

explained in a simple and accessible manner for the students. The students participated enthusiastically in the session and were greatly benefited by the awareness program.

### CHILDREN'S WARM WELCOME



**CHENNAI, DGSS:** On March 24, Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, the Vicar General, paid a fraternal visit to Don Guanella Special School. He was warmly welcomed by the children, teachers, and priests with great joy and affection. The Vicar General expressed his happiness and appreciation for the heartfelt reception. He also experienced deep satisfaction on witnessing the growth and progress of the children, which stands as a sign of the dedicated service carried out in the institution.

### WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

**CHENNAI, DGSS:** World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated on March 21 at Don Guanella Special School with great joy and significance. On this occasion, the 15 children with Down syndrome studying at the school were honored with special care and appreciation. The celebration was graced by the presence of the school's Administrator, Fr. Gabriel, who served as the chief guest. The children joyfully showcased their talents through physical exercise routines, dance performances,



and songs, bringing great happiness to all present. The program aimed to create awareness about Down syndrome and to promote inclusion, acceptance, and respect for persons with special needs. Teachers, staff, and students actively participated in making the celebration meaningful. The day was thus marked as a beautiful occasion filled with joy, love, and inclusiveness.

### **EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION FOR EVENING SCHOOL CHILDREN**



The historical significance of the temples and the greatness of the Chola dynasty were explained by the teachers, and the students listened with keen interest. The visit provided both educational enrichment and joyful moments, helping the children connect their lessons with real historical monuments. The students returned home with happy memories and a deeper appreciation for their cultural heritage.

### **GRAND FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATED**

**CUDDALORE, SJS:** The solemnity of Saint Joseph, Patron of the Minor Seminary, was celebrated with great joy and devotion. The celebration was attended by parishioners, members of the Don Guanella Boys' Home, the Guanellian Lay Movement members from Sivagangai, Fathers, Guanellian Sisters, and Brothers. The celebration began with a festive car procession carrying the statue of St. Joseph



around the seminary campus. The Holy Eucharist was solemnly presided over by Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, the Vicar General, and concelebrated by the Provincial and other priests. On this occasion, Fr. Soosai Rathinam was also honored in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of his priesthood. Nine members of the Guanellian Lay Movement from Sivagangai professed their vows and were welcomed as Guanellian Cooperators. A book titled Soosaiyaparidam Seluvom, written by Rev. Fr. Edal Vinoth, was also released during the event. The joyful celebration concluded with an agape meal shared by all the participants.

### LENTEN MOMENTS OF SHARING



**MADURAI:** The season of Lent was experienced as a time of grace and generosity at Soosai Thottam. During this period, the house was blessed by the kindness of many well-wishers who visited and spent time with the children. Several groups, including members of the Legion of Mary from Nagamalai Pudukkottai Parish, volunteers from Melur Parish, students from St. John's Primary School, and youth from Pazhanganatham, visited the home. During their visits, lunch and other material support were generously offered. The guests also interacted with the children through songs, dance, and games, bringing great joy and encouragement. Their presence and generosity were deeply appreciated and became a meaningful expression of sharing during the Lenten season.

### A JOYFUL EDUCATIONAL TRIP

**MADURAI:** A one-day picnic and pilgrimage was organized on March 21 for the children of St. Joseph's Special School to several important places in South Tamil Nadu. The trip began with a visit to Vekkaiammam Temple, followed by a stop at Our Lady of Expectation Church, where the parish priest generously provided breakfast. The children then visited Tiruchendur Murugan Temple and offered their prayers. The journey continued to Sacred Heart Grotto, where tea and snacks were kindly offered by a benefactor.



Later, the group travelled to Holy Cross Church and the nearby St. Francis Xavier's Cave for prayer. Lunch was generously arranged by the parish priest, after which the children enjoyed some time at the beach. In the evening, the group visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Snows and spent joyful moments at the beach and park. Supper was served at LFS Seminary before the children returned home happily, filled with memories of singing, dancing, and fellowship. The trip was made memorable through the dedicated efforts of the director, staff, and workers who carefully organized the program.

### ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

**KOPPAKKA:** The Annual Day of the Evening Tuition Centres was joyfully celebrated at Guanella Bhavan, bringing together children, seminarians, and staff in a spirit of celebration and gratitude. The event became a vibrant occasion showcasing the talents, dedication, and enthusiasm of the students. The program featured a variety of cultural performances, including dance, music, and other artistic presentations by the children and seminarians, which were greatly appreciated by the audience. As part of the celebration, recognition gifts were presented to the students in appreciation of their regular participation and commitment to the evening tuition centres. The gathering concluded with moments of fun and games, creating a joyful atmosphere for all. The celebration reflected the centre's commitment to fostering the academic, creative, and social growth of the children. The program came to a

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joyful close with a delicious meal and the distribution of gifts, leaving the participants with happy memories of a meaningful day.

### MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE



**THALAVADI:** On March 27, 2026, the residents and staff of Nazareth Illam Home for the Mentally Ill participated in a spiritual outing to Kalvari Betta. The visit provided an opportunity for the residents to step away from their daily routine and experience a time of prayer, reflection, and renewal in the beauty of nature. The journey through the forest trails became a meaningful moment of encouragement and fellowship for everyone involved. Surrounded by the serenity of nature, the participants experienced peace and a deep sense of God's presence. Snacks and drinking water were provided during the journey, and the outing concluded with a joyful community lunch shared by all. The day became a refreshing and memorable experience where faith, nature, and fraternity came together to bring comfort and healing to the residents.

### WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

**THALAVADI:** International Women's Day was joyfully celebrated on March 8, 2026 at Nazareth Illam Home for the Mentally Ill. The celebration honored the women



residents and staff who form the heart of the community. The program included sharing of inspiring life stories, highlighting their strength and hope. A special cultural performance was presented by the male residents as a gesture of appreciation and respect for the women. The celebration reached its highlight with a joyful cake-cutting ceremony led by the women. All the women were specially honored, and the gathering concluded with sweets and snacks shared in a spirit of happiness and unity. The day became a meaningful moment celebrating the dignity, strength, and value of every woman.

### AADHAAR UPDATE CAMP



**THALAVADI:** On March 10, 2026, an Aadhaar Update Camp was organized at Nazareth Illam Home for the Mentally Ill to help the residents update their Aadhaar details. The camp enabled the residents to update their biometric and personal information, which is essential for accessing various government welfare schemes and social security benefits. By conducting the camp on the campus itself, the institution helped remove the difficulties usually faced by persons with mental illness in reaching government offices. The initiative ensured that the residents remain connected to their citizenship rights and welfare benefits, making it a meaningful step toward greater social inclusion and dignity for those in their care.

### LENTEN RETREAT



**CUDDALORE:** On March 22, a one-day Lenten retreat was organized for the parishioners of Sagaya Madha Parish Church. The retreat was preached by Fr. Rayappan, who shared the Word of God with inspiring real-life examples and spiritual guidance. The retreat began at 9:30 a.m. with prayer, reflection, and meditation on the Word of God. In the afternoon, a Holy Hour was conducted, followed by the Sacrament of Confession and the Holy Mass. Special prayers for inner healing and thanksgiving to God were also offered. The parishioners actively participated and experienced deep spiritual joy. The retreat helped them prepare their hearts worthily for the celebration of Easter. The Parish Priest expressed his sincere gratitude to all who helped make the retreat a fruitful spiritual experience.

### LENTEN CHARITY



**CUDDALORE:** On March 15, the faithful of the parish, along with pious associations such as the Legion of Mary, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Franciscan group, carried out Lenten charity activities. They generously provided essential groceries such as rice, oil, and dal to the Boys' Home and the Seminary. During this Lenten season, the members also visited the sick families, prayed with them, and offered spiritual encouragement. All the groups united with a spirit of love, sacrifice, and service, making this charitable initiative a meaningful expression of Lenten sharing and compassion.

### LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

**CUDDALORE:** The parishioners of Sagaya Madha Church undertook a Lenten pilgrimage to Kanyakumari, Kulithurai, Kottar, and nearby churches. During this spiritual journey, the pilgrims visited sixteen churches, prayerfully meditating on the Way of the Cross at each place. The Holy Mass was also celebrated, making the pilgrimage a deeply enriching experience. Around 80 parishioners participated in this journey. Their devotion and active participation brought great spiritual renewal and joy, helping them prepare their hearts for the celebration of Easter.



**LENTEN RECOLLECTION**



**CUDDALORE:** On March 16, Fr. Soosai Rathinam fraternally visited the Boys' Home and Seminary communities in Cuddalore. During his visit, he conducted a Lenten recollection for the confreres and sisters. He delivered a spiritually enriching talk, followed by a Holy Hour of adoration, and concluded with the final blessing. The recollection became a grace-filled moment for the community, helping everyone to deepen their spiritual preparation during the Lenten season.

**16TH ANNUAL DAY AND DONORS DAY CELEBRATION**



**SIVAGANGAI:** On March 22, 2026, Yesuvanam St. Guanella Anbagam Special School and Home celebrated its 16th Annual Day and Donors Day with great joy and enthusiasm. The event reflected the dedication and committed service of the staff and students. The program began with vibrant cultural performances by the children, including skits, dances, fancy dress, and awareness songs, which delighted the audience. The staff then presented the Annual Report, highlighting the important achievements of the institution. A PowerPoint presentation also expressed gratitude to the donors and showcased the support received during the financial year 2025–2026.

The celebration was graced by the chief guests Mr. Mohan (President) and Mr. Mariyappan (Secretary) along with their team from the Madurai Consumer Goods and Wholesale Shops Association. Around 150 participants, including nearly 100 families and donors, attended the function. The guests appreciated the dedication of the staff and the talents of the children. The celebration concluded with heartfelt gratitude to all the donors and well-wishers for their generous support to the mission of the institution.

### INAUGURATION OF NEW FACILITIES



**SIVAGANGAI:** On March 22, 2026, Yesuvanam St. Guanella Anbagam Special School and Home inaugurated new facilities including a dry clothing shed, washing machine area, and hand wash facilities for the children residing in the Home. The ceremony was graced by Mr. Mohan, President, along with his team from the Madurai Consumer Goods and Wholesale Shops Association. The project was initiated to address the difficulties faced by the 45 children, especially during the rainy season, in drying their clothes and maintaining proper hygiene.

With the generous support of donors, these facilities will greatly improve the living conditions, hygiene, and overall well-being of the children. The inauguration was celebrated in a simple yet meaningful way, highlighting the importance of

community support and compassion. The institution expressed its heartfelt gratitude to all the donors and well-wishers who contributed to making this initiative possible.

### VICAR GENERAL'S VISIT



**SIVAGANGAI:** On March 10, Fr. Soosai Rathinam visited the Yesuvanam St. Guanella Anbagam Special School and Home community. His visit was a great blessing for the confreres and the special children residing in the Home. During the visit, he interacted warmly with the children, showing them love, care, and encouragement. His kind presence and words of appreciation strengthened and motivated the confreres in their dedicated service. The children were filled with joy at his presence, and the entire community experienced a moment of happiness and inspiration. The community expressed heartfelt gratitude for his visit and prayers for his continued ministry.

### A DAY OF JOY AND DELIGHT

**SIVAGANGAI:** On March 5, the children and staff of Yesuvanam St. Guanella Anbagam Special School and Home enjoyed a joyful movie outing as part of the “See and Learn” program for the academic year 2025–2026. The event was made possible through the generous support of Mr. Arockiyam S.R., Roofing Proprietor, who sponsored the program. The children were excited to experience the magic of cinema, making the outing a memorable moment for everyone. Adding to the joy, the theatre manager kindly prepared and served a delicious meal for the children and staff. The community expressed heartfelt gratitude to the donor and the theatre management for their generosity, which made the day truly special and unforgettable.

### VICAR GENERAL'S VISIT TO GUANELLA BHAVAN

**KOPPAKKA:** joyful and grace-filled gathering took place at Guanella Bhavan during



the zonal recollection for the Andhra Pradesh communities. Fr. Soosai Rathinam visited the community and met the confreres from Vatluru and Warangal, along with the Guanellian Sisters. During the recollection, he shared updates about the congregation and offered a meaningful reflection on Holy Week, highlighting the spirit of humility and service symbolized by the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday. The day also included Eucharistic adoration, personal meetings with the confreres, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by the Vicar General. The gathering concluded with a fraternal meal shared by all. His visit strengthened the spirit of unity, prayer, and renewed commitment among the members of the community.

### **PILGRIMAGE OF THE SOUL**

**SIVAGASI:** The Lenten pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that invites the faithful to grow closer to God through prayer, fasting, and charity during the season of Lent. It represents an inner journey of renewal and transformation as believers prepare their hearts for Easter. As a sign of this spiritual journey, three parishes from the Sivakasi region came together on March 1, 2026, for a Lenten pilgrimage to Vadapatti. The pilgrims walked 7 kilometers, praying the Rosary and meditating on the Way of the Cross along the way, followed by the Sunday Holy Mass. The parishioners of Vadapatti generously arranged food and other necessities for the pilgrims. The pilgrimage became a beautiful moment of prayer, fellowship, and encouragement in faith, helping everyone deepen their spiritual preparation during Lent.

### **VISIT OF THE VICAR GENERAL**

**SIVAGANGAI:** On March 9, 2026, the confreres of the Sivakasi community



experienced a grace-filled moment of fraternity during a recollection led by Fr. A. Soosai Rathinam at Krishnaperi. Confreres from Dindigul and Madurai gathered together for prayer, reflection, and sharing. During his talk, the Vicar General shared updates from the congregation and emphasized the primacy of God, inviting the confreres to be true witnesses rather than mere functionaries. Reflecting on the figure of Lazarus from the Gospel of John, he encouraged everyone to come out of spiritual complacency and renew their commitment to their vocation. The recollection concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a fraternal meal. Later, the Vicar General met the confreres personally, listening to them and offering encouragement. The day became a meaningful moment of prayer, fraternity, and renewal in the Lord.

### **PILGRIMAGE**

**DINDIGUL:** The faithful of St. Antony's Church organized a two-day pilgrimage with around 55 parishioners participating in this spiritually enriching journey. During the pilgrimage, the group travelled to Mysore and Bangalore, visiting important shrines. In Mysore, they prayed at St. Philomena's Cathedral, and in Bangalore they visited the famous Infant Jesus Shrine. Fr. Lourdu Raj accompanied the pilgrims, guiding them in prayer and reflection. The participants actively took part in spiritual activities, and the pilgrimage was marked by devotion, unity, and prayer. With good arrangements for accommodation and food, the journey became a peaceful and spiritually fulfilling experience for all.

### **JOYOUS PICNIC**

**DINDIGUL:** The Dindigul community organized a one-day picnic for the evening school children, with around 30 students joyfully participating in the trip. The group



visited several historic and devotional places including Ettayapuram, Panjalankurichi, Our Lady of Miraculous Sand Shrine, and Basilica of Our Lady of Snows. The children were excited to explore these culturally and spiritually significant places and learn about their history. Fr. Chandra Navis and Bro. Kuzhandhai Yesu, along with staff and volunteers, accompanied and guided the children throughout the journey. With delicious meals, snacks, and joyful moments of togetherness, the outing became a memorable and enriching experience for all the children.

### **150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



Sacred Heart Church joyfully celebrated its 150th anniversary on February 5, 2026. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Robert Evans. Four priests concelebrated the Holy Mass, during which a Plenary Indulgence and Papal Blessing were imparted. Many faithful from neighboring parishes gathered in prayer and thanksgiving, making the celebration a grace-filled and memorable occasion for the entire community.

### **AN EVENING OF JOY**

**CHELSEA** - Every year the residents wait in joyful anticipation for the Night to Shine. On Friday, February 13th, members of the St. Louis Center staff were busy making



sure that shoes were shined, suits were ironed and the ladies had their hair done. Once everyone was ready, they headed to the chapel to pray the Rosary. After seeking the intercession of our Blessed Mother, 15 residents loaded into vans and headed to 2|42 Church in Ann Arbor for an evening of food, fellowship, fun, and of course dancing. They enjoyed their meals, the roving magician, the dance music.

### **BOOSTING SPIRITS**



**CHELSEA** – To help make the bleak winter days a little more fun Haylie Gottschalk, Day Program Coordinator, planned “St. Louis Center Spirit Week” for February 23-27th. Each day residents and staff were urged to follow the theme such as: Pajama Day, Hat Day, Wacky Wednesday, Dress to Impress and SLC Spirit. The creativity of each resident and staff member made the week more fun.

### **STARS TAKE THE STAGE**

**CHELSEA** - Residents of St. Louis Center took center stage Monday, March 2nd, for a joyful talent showcase made possible by Open Spot Theatre, a theatre program for people of all abilities. After participating in engaging classes, residents were eager to share their talents through singing, dancing, comedy, and instrumental performances. The show opened with a group performance of True Colors, followed



by lively numbers including Backstreet Bossa Nova and a dance to Dancing Queen. Performances ranged from dad jokes and heartfelt solos to nostalgic favorites like the Barney Theme Song and The Flintstones Theme. The showcase concluded with the entire cast performing Shake a Tail Feather, celebrating confidence, creativity, and the joy of sharing talents with the community.

### **A TRADITION CONTINUES: PASTA WITH THE PRIESTS**



**CHELSEA** - Pasta with the Priests was such a special evening March 5th. The St. Louis Center staff engaged all their creativity to make it special. Kitchen manager Tracy Peters pulled off a pasta feast miracle with her delicious menu. Hidden talents abound with our staff! About 90 people arrived at the Center to enjoy the meal, and a time of fellowship with one another.

### **GIRLS ON RETREAT**

**GRASS LAKE** : March was a very busy month at the Shrine. The Girl's Retreat took place on March 7th. DSMP sisters from Chicago came to the retreat to help. The girls had the chance to meet and talk with them, learning about life as a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence.



### **ACCOMPANY WITH KINDNESS**

**CHELSEA :** To help learn more about giving of themselves to those less fortunate, about 35 sophomore students from nearby Fr. Gabriel Richard High School spent the better part of Friday, March 6th, at St. Louis Center. The students learned about the mission of the Center before dividing into 4 groups to work on some projects with the residents. One group prepared seeds that will be planted out in the garden in a few weeks. Another group refreshed the bulletin board in the main lobby. Several students participated in a “paint and pass” activity with residents who love to be creative. Each person started with a canvas, and were given several minutes to paint. When a timer sounded, they had to pass the canvas to the person beside them. It was a fun way to make art. The final group worked on the marshmallow challenge. Fr. Satheesh celebrated Mass for the group before lunch. All of the students had a great time and look forward to coming to the Center again soon.

### **PRAYER, PLANNING, AND PROVIDENCE**

**GRASS LAKE:** The Providence Hall Planning Committee, which formed last month, has begun meeting to discuss plans for a new building. Subcommittees have also been formed to explore financing, construction, and art & environment.

### **PILGRIMS FILL THE SHRINE**

**GRASS LAKE :** Around St. Joseph's feast day, many pilgrims visited the Shrine. Two busses of Chaldeans came on March 14th; Ten busses on March 19th. Over 200 pilgrims attended an Arabic Mass at the Shrine on St. Joseph's Feast Day. They also lit candles, visited the gift shop, and walked around the grounds. One group prayed the outdoor stations of the cross, while others explored the new Holy Rosary Walk. Two additional busses made their way to the Shrine on March 21st. After enjoying breakfast in the Pastoral Center, they joined in the 11:30 am Mass.



### A SHOW OF APPRECIATION

**CHELSEA:** The St. Louis Center Family Association brought goodies and giveaways for the staff to show their appreciation for the wonderful care their adult children or siblings receive at the Center. It's all about experiencing the fullness of life for our residents, staff, and the beautiful people who support our service to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The staff, in return, are grateful for Janet, Linda, Pat, Jenny, Mary and Christine who spent the day joyfully serving the staff.



### REFRESHMENTS FOR THE FAITHFUL



**GRASS LAKE:** The newly formed Pious Union of St. Joseph Men's Group hosted coffee and donuts after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, March 23rd. Almost 100 people came to the back of the Church to enjoy the treats and learn more about the Men's Group.

## **BIRTHDAY**

**01-FR. FORTUNATO TURATI**

**FR. B. CHRISTURAJ**

**FR. MERUGU ANIL**

**FR. V. JOHNSON**

**BRO. G. CHANDRA SEKAR**

**03-FR. A. JERIN PRASANNA**

**04- BRO. L. EDWARD FRANCIS**

**05-FR. S. JOHN KENNEDY (SENIOR)**

**06-FR. A. FRANCIS ASSISI |**

**BRO. S. KUZHANTHAI YESU**

**08-FR. C. JOHN PAUL BRITTO**

**10- FR. CARLOS NAYAK**

**13- FR. A. SELVAKANI**

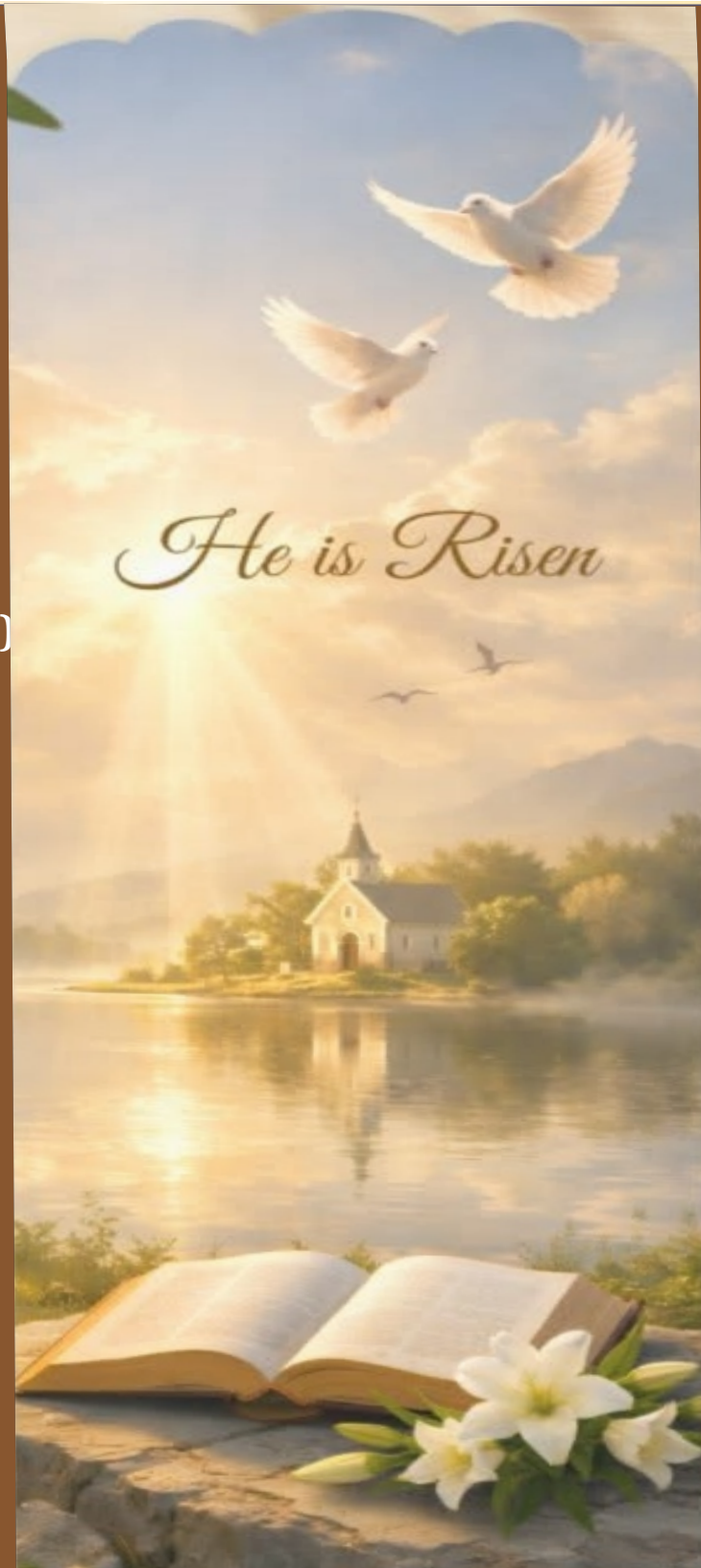
**16-FR. M. VINCENT**

**18- BRO. A. PONAVENTHURE**

**20-FR. G. GABRIEL**

**FR. S. PACKIARAJ**

**24-FR. A. ANTONY SAMY**



**Sending you Easter wishes that bloom with hope and renew your spirit.**