



News and Views

Divine Providence Province

CLERGY & PARTY POLITICS

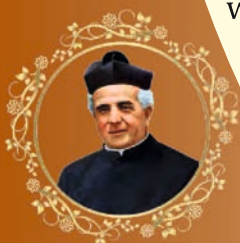


Dear Confreres!

Social media has become one of the fastest platforms to get to know what is happening in the world and it also provides for everyone to express their views, preferences, and evaluation of what is going on around us. As religious and priests we are indeed concerned about politics especially when the elections are imminent. We all indeed look for the kingdom values realized in our times and the people at the periphery may take a step forward in their social life. Most of our work and mission is centered in this sphere as part of our evangelization. At times we see that some of us, priests and religious get involved so much in party politics to the extent of expressing and lobbying for parties in social media or enrolling as members of a political party. It is also the season of the election both in USA and in India. Therefore, I wanted also to share with you the stand of the Catholic Church concerning the participation of religious and clerics in active politics. Particularly, I want to specify Canon 285§3 to explain in detail.

The 1983 code rules definitively without qualification, "Clerics are forbidden to hold public offices that call for the exercise of civil power." First, the term clerics in the 1983 code refers to the people of God who by the sacred orders participate in the priesthood of Christ. They act in the name of Christ by their ordination. They are consecrated and deputed to divine worship and pastoral service of the brethren and are part of the hierarchy of the church. The clerics include only the deacons, priests, and bishops. This canon is about a universal law, so it imposes an obligation on all the priests of the Latin Church both secular and religious whatever may be the personal and social circumstances in which they live and exercise their ministry. The law speaks of 'assuming' office, which includes both election and appointment to office. Members of religious institutes (c.672) and of societies of apostolic life (c.739) are also bound by this canon. The 1981 *Relatio* (Written Report

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of the Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law) interpreted 'civil power' to include legislative, administrative, and judicial authority. The canon is concerned with the exercise of public authority. The prohibition extends beyond serving as governor, mayor, judge, senator, and the like to serve on zoning boards, school boards, transportation commissions, and similar bodies. However, merely advisory positions would not be banned. The question arises, therefore, whether or not the diocesan bishop may dispense from the law forbidding clerics to hold public office. The earlier draft of this paragraph that replaces c.139§4 of the 1917 code was more complex than the present one. The former code had foreseen the possibility of the clerics assuming public office by obtaining permission from the competent authority. The present code does not explicitly provide for such exceptions.

The *motu proprio De Episcoporum Muneribus* of Pope Paul VI (1966) specifically reserved to the Holy See any dispensation permitting clerics 'to assume public offices which involve the exercise of lay jurisdiction or administration,' but this reservation is not found in the present code. In the 1977 draft (c.146, §2) there was a provision for the local ordinary to give permission for a cleric to hold such office, but this proviso was ultimately eliminated. Furthermore, the prohibition was strengthened in the final version by the use of the term *vetantur* instead of the subjunctive verb *ne assumant*. Canon 1042, §2 makes the holding of a public office an impediment to ordination until the office is relinquished and an account rendered according to civil law.

According to Canon 87, §1 the bishop may dispense from universal disciplinary laws as often as he judges it helpful for the spiritual good of the faithful and when the matter has not been reserved to the Apostolic See. However, the church's position on priests and religious serving in public office would urge a bishop to use great caution in evaluating the "just and reasonable cause" required for a dispensation as demanded by can.90.

In addition to the moral content of this canon, it gives shape also to a true norm of imperative law which goes beyond simple advice or recommendation. The violation of the norm in this canon may give rise to penal sanctions through the singular precept as per can. 1399 if the specific gravity of the offense requires it and if the scandals are to be prevented or repaired. In accord with the canon law, the priest who engaged in politics could of course renounce his political activity and seek to return to the Church as a priest in ministry by requesting the lifting of his suspension. The implication of this canon plainly addresses that even though there is nothing intrinsically wrong with working in politics, it is nevertheless not appropriate work for Catholic clerics. It is notable that though the permanent deacons are also included in the state of 'clerics' they are exempted acc. to can. 288.

I hope that everyone would agree that since the clergy are men of the church, their engagement in politics could cause confusion regarding the religious mission of the Church. *Lumen Gentium* carefully distinguished the roles of the laity and the clergy. It mentions as, "To be secular is the special characteristic of the laity. Although those in holy orders may sometimes be engaged in secular activities or even practice a secular profession, yet by



reason of their particular vocation they are principally and expressly ordained to the sacred ministry. It is the special vocation of the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will."

The 1971 synod of bishops also mentions that the priest, who is the witness of things to come, must keep a certain distance from any political office or involvement because values of the gospel are absolute and independent of culture but politics is rooted in the concrete circumstances of the here and now. The priest must remain a valid sign of unity and be able to preach the Gospel in its entirety. If a priest sides himself in the active politics, he would become a cause of division among the faithful. I strongly believe that it is true in real life events.

From the start of his papacy, Pope John Paul II strictly reasserted the canon law banning priests from any active participation in party politics. His intention was not to weaken Catholicism's political impact but to unify the church and to strengthen its moral authority. He wanted the singular political authority of the Vatican which must be unaltered by local politics. The authors who have written on the topic after the promulgation of the CIC of 1983 have not hesitated to relate the strong words of Pope John Paul II on the presence of the clergy and religious in the political and public life of civil society. In one of his first speeches as Roman Pontiff, in January 1979 he said: "You are spiritual leaders who must concern yourselves with leading the hearts of the faithful; You are priests and religious; you are not social or political leaders or officials of temporal power. For this reason I repeat to you: "Let us not be under the illusion that we are serving the Gospel if we 'dilute' our charism through an exaggerated interest in the wide field of temporal problems. Do not forget that temporal power can easily be a source of division, while the priest must be a sign and agent of unity and brotherhood. Secular functions are the specific field of action of the laity, who has the task of improving temporal matters with the Christian spirit."

The words of Pope John Paul II pointed out both the specific role and function of the clerics as guides and instruments of unity in the ecclesiastical community. This distinction of the roles of clerics and laity is clear in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as "It is not the role of the Pastors of the Church to intervene directly in the political structuring and organization of social life. This task is part of the vocation of the lay faithful, acting on their initiative with their fellow citizens." Pope John Paul II said in a general audience in July 1993 titled as "Priests Do Not Have a Political Mission" that Jesus never wanted to be involved in a political movement and fled away from every attempt to draw him into earthly questions and affairs (Jn 6:15). The kingdom he came to establish does not belong to this world (Jn 18:36). For this reason he said to those who wanted him to take a stand regarding the civil power: "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Mt 22:21). He repeatedly told the clergy to remember their role and to look to Jesus's example: "Like Jesus, a priest must renounce involvement in political activity, especially by not taking sides, which almost inevitably happens."

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Though the Code of Canon Law strictly prohibits priests from having an active role in political parties, it does not mean that they cannot have an active role in political life. They can vote but they are not to speak publicly or to support any political candidate. Moreover, it would not be a prudent act of a cleric and it could even constitute a violation of the right to freedom of the faithful in secular affairs (can.227) to openly campaign for some candidates. The lay faithful remain entirely free in these cases and they are not even morally bound to the choices of the clerics. The clerics may undertake non-partisan types of political activity in involving like defending the human rights, the promotion of the full development of the persons and their pursuit of justice and peace. They can involve themselves such activities that does not require of holding public office that calls for the exercise of civil power.

Here, I would like to conclude with the words of Pope John Paul II from Ecclesia in Oceania that states as, "It is certain that commitment to social justice and peace is an integral part of the Church's mission in the world. Yet her mission does not depend upon political power. The Church is concerned with the temporal aspects of the common good because they are ordered to the sovereign Good, our ultimate end."

Being a politician and being a priest are fundamentally incompatible.

- ❖ I invite you to pray for the success of the Provincial Chapter to be held on 20 - 25, 2024
- ❖ I invite those Superiors of the communities/in charge of the residence to encourage the Evening School Teachers to partake actively in the Evening School Teachers Meet to be held on April 29-30, 2024 at DGMS, Chennai.
- ❖ I invite all the Postulants, Temporarily professed religious, Priests within 10 years of priesthood to partake actively in the Guanellian School to be held on May 1-3, 2024 at DGMS, Chennai. This invitation is also an open invitation to all the Guanellian priests, sisters, and Cooperators.

FR. RONALD. J SDC

Provincial Superior

PROVINCIAL CALENDER - APRIL

14th - Memorial Mass in Nagercoil
15th - DPP Council Meeting
19th - Elections
20 - 25 - DPP 6th Provincial Chapter
29-30 - Evening School Teachers Meet in Chennai

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Justice

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Here we are at the second of the cardinal virtues: today we will talk about **Justice**. It is the quintessential social virtue. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines it as “the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbour” (no. 1807). This is justice. Often, when justice is mentioned, the motto that represents it is also quoted: “unicuique suum ” — that is, “to each his own”. It is the virtue of law, that seeks to regulate relations between people equitably.

It is represented allegorically by the scales, because it aims to “**even the score**” between people, especially when they risk being distorted by some imbalance. Its purpose is that everyone in society be treated in accordance with the dignity proper to them. But the ancient masters had already taught that in order for this to occur, other virtuous attitudes are also necessary, such as benevolence, respect, gratitude, affability, and honesty: virtues that contribute to a good coexistence between people. Justice is a virtue for the good coexistence of people. We all understand that justice is fundamental for peaceful coexistence in society: a world without laws respecting rights would be a world in which it is impossible to live; it would resemble a jungle. Without justice, there is no peace. Without justice, there is no peace. Indeed, if justice is not respected, conflicts arise. Without justice, the law of the prevalence of the strong over the weak becomes entrenched, and this is not just.

But justice is a virtue that acts on both a large and small scale. It has to do not only with the courtroom, but also with the ethics that characterize our daily lives. It establishes sincere relations with others: it realizes the precept of the Gospel, according to which Christian speech is “simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil” (Mt 5:37). Half-truths, double-talk intended to deceive one's neighbour, the reticence that conceals true intentions, are not attitudes in keeping with justice. The righteous person is upright, simple and straightforward. He does not wear masks, he presents himself for what he is and he speaks the truth. The words “thank you” are often on his lips. He knows that no matter how generous we strive to be, we always remain indebted to our neighbour. If we love, it is also because we were loved first.

In tradition we can find countless descriptions of the righteous person. Let us look at some of them. The righteous person reveres laws and respects them, knowing that they constitute a barrier protecting the defenceless from the tyranny of the powerful. The righteous person does not only think of his own individual well-being, but desires the good of society as a whole. Therefore, he does not give in to the temptation to think only of himself and of taking care of his own affairs, however legitimate they may be, as if they were the only thing that exists in the world. The virtue of

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justice makes it clear — and places this need in the heart — that there can be no true good for oneself if there is not also the good of all.

Therefore, the righteous person keeps watch over his own behaviour, so that it is not harmful to others. If he makes a mistake, he apologizes. The righteous man always apologizes. In some situations, he goes so far as to sacrifice a personal good to make it available to the community. He desires an orderly society, where people give lustre to the office they hold, and not the office that gives lustre to people. He abhors special treatments and does not trade favours. He loves responsibility and is exemplary in promoting legality. That [legality] indeed, is the path of justice, the antidote to corruption: how important it is to educate people, especially the young, in the culture of legality! It is the way to prevent the cancer of corruption and to eradicate crime, pulling the rug from under its feet. Furthermore, the righteous person shuns harmful behaviour such as slander, perjury, fraud, usury, mockery and dishonesty. The righteous person keeps his word, returns what he has borrowed, pays fair wages to all labourers: a man who does not pay fair wages to workers is not just, he is unjust. He is careful not to make reckless judgments of his neighbours, and defends the reputation and good name of others.

None of us knows if the righteous people in our world are numerous or if they are as rare as precious pearls. But they are people who draw grace and blessings both upon themselves and upon the world in which they live. They are not losers compared to those who are “cunning and shrewd”, for, as Scripture says, “He who pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honour” (Pr 21:21). The righteous are not moralists who don the robe of the censor, but upright people who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Mt 5:6), dreamers who yearn in their hearts for universal brotherhood. And, today especially, we are all in great need of this dream. We need to be righteous men and women, and this will make us happy.

Franciscus

Pope Francis

'Don't be afraid,'

**Jesus knows the hearts of each one of you,
the successes and the failures, he knows your hearts,**

Pope Francis



A FUN-FILLED DAY BY THE SEA



KOPPAKA: The Koppaka community recently organized a delightful one-day picnic for the children of the evening schools. It was an event to remember. On the 8th of March, the community gathered bright and early at 9:30 a.m. to embark on a journey to Manginapudi Beach in Machilipatnam. As the children arrived at the beach, their faces lit up with excitement at the sight of the vast expanse of the sea. They wasted no time diving into the water and playing to their heart's content. The beach proved to be a perfect playground for the children, who enjoyed every moment of their time there. After a fun-filled day by the sea, a delicious lunch replenished their energy. The children enjoyed every bite. As the sun began to set, it was time to bid farewell to the beach and head back home. The return journey was filled with happy memories and shared stories of the day's adventures. By 6 p.m., the children had safely returned to their starting point, ending a day filled with laughter, fun, and amusement.

THE ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION



KOPPAKA: On March 23rd, the children from five different centers gathered to showcase their talents through dances, songs, and various performances. The day kicked off with an exhibition of the children's skills and creativity as they took to the stage with enthusiasm and confidence. The audience was treated to a colorful display of talent, with each performance reflecting the hard work and dedication of the young participants.

The highlight of the event was the presence of Fr. Praveen SdC as the chief guest of the day. His words of wisdom and encouragement resonated with the children, inspiring them to dream big and reach for the stars. He emphasized the importance of education and hard work in shaping a bright future, urging the children to believe in themselves and strive for excellence. As the day drew to a close, all the children were given gifts as a token of appreciation for their efforts and dedication. A delicious spread of refreshments was served, adding to the festive atmosphere, and bringing smiles to the faces of all in attendance. The children were grateful for the opportunity to display their talents and express their creativity, and they conveyed their heartfelt thanks to our Congregation and especially to ASCI. The Annual Day celebration was not just a day of performances and festivities but a day that instilled a sense of pride, accomplishment, and unity among the children of the evening schools.

EMBRACING NEW LIFE

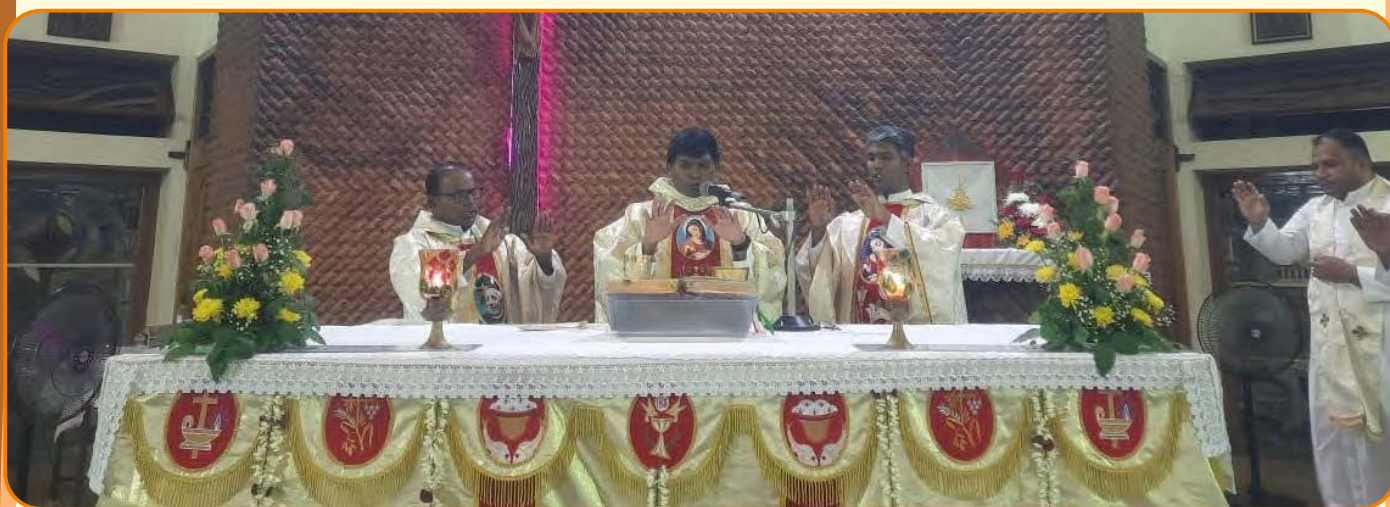


KOPPAKA: The Easter Vigil Mass started with the blessing of the new fire, symbolizing the light of Christ that shines brightly in the darkness. The flames danced and flickered, casting a warm glow over the faces of those in attendance. The Easter candle was then lit, its flame a beacon of hope and new life for all. The faithful were fully engaged and immersed in the occasion's solemnity, participating in prayers, hymns, and readings that recounted the story of Jesus' resurrection. During the homily, Rev. Fr. Yesu Babu emphasized the birth of Jesus, His suffering on the cross, His death, and His resurrection. He emphasized that through



Jesus's death, death itself was defeated. And whoever embraces the cross receives an assurance of forgiveness and mercy. Each moment was a reminder of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection and the promise of the new life it brings. One of the most moving moments of the evening was the Renewal of the Baptismal Vows by the faithful, reaffirming their commitment to live out their faith in their daily lives. It was a powerful symbol of rebirth and spiritual growth, a reminder of the grace and mercy that God bestows upon His children. The celebration had been a profound and uplifting experience, bringing everyone closer to God and renewing their faith in His love and mercy.

CELEBRATING OUR PATRON



CUDDALORE: On March 19th, the SJS community celebrated the Feast of their patron, St. Joseph. It was a jubilant evening; we were blessed to have the presence of our neighboring community Fathers, Boys Home children, DSMP Sisters, the hostel girls, and the parishioners of Sagaya Matha Church. At about 5:30 p.m., we began the car procession around the seminary, which Fr. James, the Administrator, blessed. The people joined the procession and offered prayers for the world, the Church, the Congregation, and our nation through the powerful intercession of St. Joseph. Next, Rev. Fr. Francis, our Provincial Council, graced the occasion and blessed the newly built pathway around Mother Mary's Garden at the entrance. During the Holy Eucharist, Fr. Francis, the chief celebrant, underscored the significance of St. Joseph, the husband and father, par excellence. After thanking everyone at the end of the Mass, Fr. Adaikalam, the Superior & Rector, invited everyone to join in an agape meal. The repast was enjoyed by all who shared the love, joy, and prayers of the day.

CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CUDDALORE: The SJS Community organized its 3rd Annual Classical Academy with the help of the Initiation students on the 25th of March at 6:30 pm. The evening began with the welcoming of the chief guest, Mr. David Raj, the English Coach. The candidates were indeed glad to have organized the academy with the theme "Pollution." The sessions were

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conducted by Bros. Suresh & Ranjith, along with the cooperation and collaboration of the other candidates. Six speakers shared their knowledge and expertise about the various types of pollution. They described the sources and causes and the long-term effects as well as proposed preventive measures to safeguard and protect Mother Earth. In between the speeches, there were a few cultural programs like solo singing, group singing, and dances for the Tamil & Odiya songs. The highlight was the depiction of pollution and its effects via a skit performance. During the Presidential Address, Mr. David, the English Coach, expressed appreciation for all their performances and advised the attendees always to read a lot and equip themselves to learn languages.

CHILD PROTECTION AND POCSO ACT

PROVINCIALATE: An awareness program on Child Protection and POCSO Act was conducted for Don Guanella Evening School children on the 12th of March 2024. Mrs. Parameshwari, Advocate Cum Social Activist, was the resource person for the program. It was an important step towards educating the children on the importance of child safety and protection. The program covered various topics related to child protection and the POCSO Act. The program was designed to raise the children's awareness of the various types of



abuses against children and to help them be more vigilant in ensuring their safety in society. Children performed speeches and poems related to the topic. They could also raise questions and receive clarification of their doubts and concerns from resource persons. Students who won the drawing and essay writing competition were awarded prizes. At the end of the program, the attendees were treated to a sumptuous dinner and returned home happy.

LENTEN RETREAT



CUDDALORE: On the 17th of March, we had a day retreat for our Sagaya Madha parishioners. We began our retreat at 9:30 a.m. with Fr. Achariyam SdC, delivering the introductory homily. The event was interactive, with parishioners and clergy participating. The Word of God was read, followed by a period of meditation. Fr. Achariyam gave real-life examples of his message, which helped listeners focus and absorb the meaning. A holy hour was observed from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., followed by confessions and Mass. Fr. Achariyam prayed for inner healing and praised God. Parishioners were incredibly happy. They felt they had good interior preparation for the Easter Celebration. To conclude the day, the parish priest thanked everyone.

LENTEN CHARITY



CUDDALORE: On March 17th, pious associations like the Legion of Mary and the Franciscans joined together to help the poor of our parish. They distributed a monthly relief package of

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groceries, which included rice, oil, dall, soap, and toilet articles. During the Lenten season, they visited the sick and prayed for their families. Members united together, contributed, and did the charity work.

THE HOLY WEEK



ELURU: Cardinal Cantalamessa said, "It is not an act of revenge to humiliate his opponents. He does not appear in their midst to prove them wrong or to mock their impotent anger." "Any such revenge would be incompatible with the love that Christ wanted to bear witness to in His Passion." Holy Week culminated in the Good Friday celebration, which was devout and fully animated in the streets of Vatluru. Fr. A. Francis Assisi SdC carried the cross, and people's feet were washed according to age-old traditions. It was a memorable and astounding demonstration of the faith of the people. Then, on Holy Saturday evening, the Easter Vigil Mass was celebrated along with other liturgical celebrations in the Sacred Heart Church Vatluru.

FAREWELL TO THE BOYS

ELURU: The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... intelligence plus character, is a goal of education" (Martin Luther King Jr). As our 10th-grade



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boys prepared to complete their academic education in Guanella Karuanalaya, we arranged a farewell celebration for them. The anticipation of this celebration provided motivation and a psychological boost for the students to complete their studies. Parents were also invited to the farewell celebration. It was a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the students accomplishments and to draw to a close the school year. They were given a small present.

PILGRIMAGE



ELURU: A pilgrimage is defined as “a journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion as to pay homage. A pilgrimage is not a time for detachment, rest, or pampering; rather, it is a time of deep reflection, modesty, and prayer.” The faithful of Vatluru Parishioners were led on a Lenten pilgrimage to simulate the 14 Stations on the Way of the Cross. They visited 14 different places in and around Gudivada, Machilipatnam, and Vijayawada. People were devout and pious during the pilgrimage.

IT'S NOT ONLY GIVING BUT ALSO LEARNING

BANGALORE: It was a homecoming for the employees of Delta Airlines; Bangalore around 25 of them visited our home. They were all divided into groups and merged with the elderly men in doing occupational therapy like making paper bags, boom making, and tying the broom. They all helped the elders and also learned to make the brooms, and bags and to know the difficulties in making. Moreover, they interacted with them and got to know how



this occupational therapy helps them to release their stress from all their anxiety. Finally, they expressed their kindness by offering some groceries and toiletry items.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUM



BANGALORE: It was a glorious eve for our GPN community to celebrate Easter with grateful hearts. The paschal tridum was joyfully celebrated and a huge number of faithful gathered on the lawn. Rev Fr. Kulandai presided over the Eucharist and washed the feet of the apostles and gave the gifts. In the homily, he said, "We should wash the sins of our family members." On the second day of the tridum, the whole community observed the day of fasting and reflected on the Lord's Passion by enacting the Passion play realistically with the help of GC, GLM and other lay faithful. Mr. Sunil the president of the GLM acted as Jesus, and all others in different characters. The third day of the tridum along with Church the GPN celebrated gloriously the Resurrection of the Lord in English and Tamil. The community was filled with many religious sisters and lay faithful. All the faithful received the blessing of the Risen Lord and returned joyfully.

WOMEN ACHIEVERS AWARD

The A P J Abdulkalam Trust organized a Women's Day Celebration with the theme "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity" to honor and recognize the achievements of



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women. The event took place on March 17th and included all teachers from Don Guanella Special School receiving awards, bringing joy to the teachers and pride to the school. The chief guest was actor Mr. Baskar, Adding charm to the festivities. The event fostered a sense of camaraderie and solidarity among attendees, leaving them inspired and motivated to continue supporting and uplifting women. The celebration was a success, showcasing the potential of every woman and emphasizing the importance of unity in the journey towards equality and justice. The teachers of Don Guanella Special School were proud to be part of such a impactful event, leaving with full hearts and lifted spirits.

SEMINAR FOR BROTHERS



On March 21st, our school hosted a seminar on disability led by the District Differently abled Welfare Officer Mr. Srinivasan. This event aimed to educate major seminarians about the benefits and support services available on disability. The Officer emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive environment and recognizing the unique abilities and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. The seminar covered various benefits such as education, vocational training, healthcare, and financial assistance. The Officer also stressed the importance of advocacy and self-advocacy for people with disabilities, encouraging students to speak up for their rights and seek support when needed. The seminar highlighted the importance of self-advocacy in overcoming barriers and achieving goals. Overall, the event was a valuable opportunity for Major Seminarians to learn about available resources and services, empowering them to take control of their future and access the support they need in an inclusive and supportive environment.

WOMEN'S DAY

Don Guanella Special School celebrated World Women's Day by honoring the extraordinary women staff members who make a difference in the lives of our students every day. This day is a time to recognize and appreciate the achievements and contributions of women in various fields and to promote gender equality. The women at Don Guanella

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Special School play a crucial role in the education and care of our students with special needs.

MGM PICNIC

Don Guanella Special School recently organized a picnic to MGM, Muttukadu in Chennai on Saturday, 9th March. The event was a day filled with fun, excitement, and learning for the children who attend the school. The children were accompanied by their parents, staff members, and volunteers who ensured that they had a memorable experience. The school picnic to MGM was a refreshing break from the routine for the children. They were able to explore the different attractions at the amusement park, enjoy exciting rides, and participate in various activities. The children were able to bond with their peers and teachers in a relaxed and enjoyable setting, creating lasting memories. Overall, the school picnic to MGM was a resounding success. The children had a wonderful time, experiencing new and exciting adventures, and enjoying the company of their peers, parents, and teachers. The day was a testament to the collaborative efforts of everyone involved in making the event a memorable one. Don Guanella Special School continues to provide enriching experiences for its students, fostering a sense of community, belonging, and joy.

DIVERSITY TRAINING





CHELSEA - Thanks to funding from St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital and Chelsea Community Foundation, St. Louis Center can provide a new learning opportunity to the Chelsea community, as well as the Center's residents and staff. The first class in the series was about caring for ethnic hair. Residents and Staff gathered for an evening of learning on March 6th. Hair Care professional Nikki Lewis presented information on how to properly care for hair based on texture and other scientific factors. She offered demonstrations and a detailed slide presentation so that each person can have the healthiest possible hair.

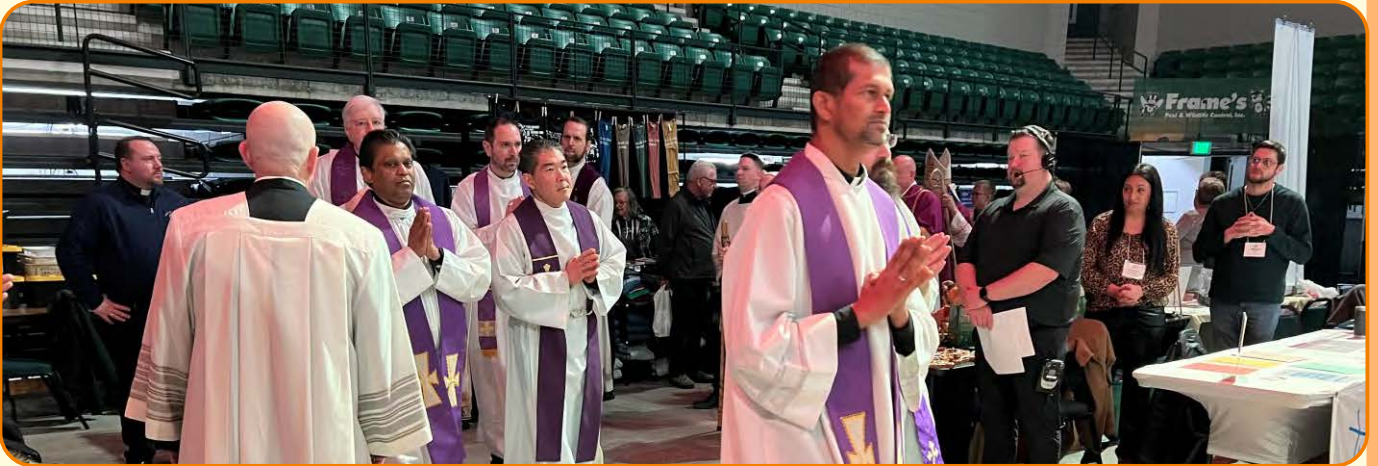
DINE TO DONATE



CHELSEA - St. Louis Center is always seeking ways to increase community engagement and new fundraising opportunities. One way is through programs offered by area restaurants. On a specified day, an organization can invite everyone they know to eat at the restaurant and a percentage of the proceeds will benefit that organization. On Thursday, March 7th, supporters of St. Louis Center dined at Aubree's Pizza in Dexter. It was a great time to greet supporters, meet new people, and expand the mission of the Center.



MEN'S CONFERENCE



CHELSEA - On Saturday, March 16th, 700 Catholic men from the area gathered at Eastern Michigan University for a day of fellowship and faith. Fr. Satheesh and Fr. Franklin assisted other area priests to hear confessions throughout the day. They also celebrated Mass with Bishop Boyea of the Lansing Diocese. A generous donor sponsored a table for the St. Louis Center to be able to greet people during the event.

HONORING ST. PATRICK



CHELSEA - The family members of the St. Louis Center residents are so grateful for the loving care that the Center's staff provides. This year in honor of St. Patrick's Day, they distributed treats to all staff members throughout the day March 18th. Each staff member enjoyed festive snacks and the opportunity to win a 'pot o' gold' on a scratch off lottery ticket.

POETRY SLAM

CHELSEA - St. Louis Center Day Program Coordinator Haylie Moran challenged Tifani





CHELSEA - St. Louis Center Day Program Coordinator Haylie Moran challenged Tifani Barnett, Direct Care Worker, to plan a fun event for all of the residents participating in the day program. In conjunction with World Poetry Day, Tifani planned an event for the staff and residents to hear and recite poetry. Jennie Maynard, sister of one of the residents, got a donation from the Chelsea Bakery for refreshments. On March 21st, everyone gathered in the gym, enjoyed coffee and pastries, and best of all listened to many different types of poetry.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Fr. Fortunato Turati |
Fr. Badugu Christuraj
Bro. Anil Merugu | Fr. Johnson. V
Bro. Rayappa Chandra Sekar
- 3 - Fr. Jerin Prasanna. A
- 4 - Bro. Edward Francis
- 6 - Fr. Francis Assisi. A
Bro. Kuzhanthai Yesu
- 8 - Fr. John Paul Britto
- 10. Bro. Runa Nayak
- 13 - Fr. Selvakani
- 16 - Fr. Vincent. M(Junior)
- 18. Bro. Ponaventhur
- 20 - Fr. Gabriel. G | Fr. Packiyaraj. S
- 24 - Fr. Antony Samy. A

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

- 1 - Fr. Piero Lippoli
- 21 - Fr. Luigi De Giambattista
Fr. Silvio De Nard
- 28 - Fr. Alfonso Crippa

Have questions or comments
E-mail to Don Guanella
Communication Center at
sanlouisguanella@gmail.com

