

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



We are God's Imprints, Hence no Distinctions

'In every human person there is the imprint of God' - Pope Francis. The statement reminds us that each of us is created in God's image and likeness. Our province has given birth to new houses for the good children in the United States and in India, on **June 12th** a formal dedication of **ST. LOUIS GUANELLA VILLAGE** along with the grand opening of four new **CHILDREN'S HOMES** for children with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and on **June 29th**, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, **DON GUANELLA RESIDENTIAL HOME** for the orphaned special children respectively. These are the outcomes of the untiring efforts of our confreres along with the Staff, Parents, GLM, Benefactors and well-wishers. It is realized after 58 & 20 years of our ministry presence in USA and Chennai as per the sayings of our Founder St. Luigi Guanella, *'A new house develops little by little according to the ways of Divine Providence.'* It is also a miracle of Providence. Fr. Luigi invites us not to put our *trust in economic security or fixed revenues or human protection but in prayer, work, sacrifice and poverty.* He not only expressed this by his words but by deeds of trusting in God and soliciting help from the people.

Every human person is born with a heart of compassion which reacts in accordance with the feelings of fellow humans. Compassion, love, affection and care are the innate qualities which make us human. It is these qualities that define the human person. All world religions ecumenically share and support this concept of treating others with courtesy and kindness. The best example of humaneness is the parable of "The Good Samaritan" in which a lowly Samaritan assisted a helpless man who had been waylaid and injured.

Therefore my humble reminder to all those associated with the Guanellian Mission in our province as we remember the foundation day of our ministry on July 3rd to inculcate a heart of compassion, love, affection and care to the differently-abled people who need love and compassion. **Pope Francis** rightly said in one of his audiences when he directly met the sick and the differently-abled people: *"God has a special place in His Heart for differently-abled people."* **Dalai Lama** said: *"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries... without them humanity cannot survive."* So let's always strive to be persons filled with compassion and love for humanity without any distinctions. Having the imprints of God in us, let's see God's imprint in our fellow humans.

Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC

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"God has a special place in His Heart for differently-abled people."

Pope Francis

The Church and Homosexuals By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

A gentleman who calls me his friend, among other questions about the Church asked me: “Isn’t the Church’s teaching discriminatory against homosexuals?” Not at all.

The Church does not discriminate against homosexuals. It revolves around the distinction between homosexual activity and homosexual persons. First is the Church’s belief that Homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. Under no circumstances can they be approved (Catechism, # 2357). The Church also insists, however, that men and women with same sex attractions are valued members of the human family and must be treated with the same respect and love as every other child of God. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. Hatred, persecution, prejudices and ridicule of homosexuals is a grave sin and must always be treated as such.

The teaching of the Church does not intend to offend our homosexual brothers and sisters, and we recognize that for some individuals and their families, especially parents, questions of sexual identity and behavior can be very difficult and emotionally charged. To those individuals and their families we offer our sincere concern and prayerful support

As a society, however, we have to understand the possibility, sometimes the necessity, of loving and respecting their inappropriate or immoral behavior. Parents have to do that with their children once in a while.

What harm is done if the activity is between consenting adults? The fact that two adults consent to an action doesn’t make it morally right or socially acceptable. The “harm” is that such reasoning leads us down a very dangerous and permissive slope to the detriment of the common good and the spiritual impoverishment of the

individuals involved. After all, two consenting adults can engage in drug use, prostitution, polygamy or other immoral activity. In other words, the determination of the morality of an action is found in the act itself and not in the consent of the people involved.



Same sex unions affect the family. We should recognize that in every culture and society throughout the ages traditionally defined marriage, as a stable union of one man and one woman, has been normative and has been given protection and respect. The definition of the family’s identity is a priority. Such marital and family stability does not only depend on the good will of concrete persons; it takes on an institutional character of public recognition by the State. The recognition, protection and promotion of this stability contribute to the general interest, especially of the weakest, that is the children.

In other simple terms, marriage as traditionally defined has always been a privileged institution,

and that distinction should be recognized, preserved and applauded. Accepting other personal unions as equivalent to marriage undermines the special status afforded to marriage in every society and culture.

Examples of this point: in the classroom if all the students routinely get an “A” on their report card, the work of the real “A” student is devalued. In the Olympics, if everyone receives a gold medal, why bother competing? And if every intimate relationship between consenting adults is marriage, then marriage is nothing.

Parish Feast

KUMBAKONAM - It was indeed a great joy for our Parish to celebrate the Parish Feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence. The feast began on May 7th with a flag hoisting and solemn Mass celebrated by Fr. T. Deva Doss, VF. For each of the seven days of novena the Rosary was prayed followed by a Novena Mass celebrated by diocesan and other religious priests. During the homily, the priests shared their reflections on Mother Mary and the virtues that we must learn from her. Every day after Holy Mass, the parish people shared different sweets and snacks with one another. The culmination of the celebration was on the eve of May 12th. Msgr. A. Amirthasamay, Vicar General of Kumbakonam, presided over the solemn Mass and blessed the procession which followed. The car carrying the statue of Our Lady of Divine Providence was processed through the streets of our substations. On the following day, Fr. M. Phillip Santiago, Procurator of Kumbakonam, celebrated the feast day Mass and lowered the flag ending the celebration. The guidance of the Parish Priests, Parish Council, and Pious groups made this celebration a successful and fruitful one, bringing us the intercession of Our Lady of Divine Providence and the grace of her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Never Weary of Learning

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Major Seminary organized a workshop on Siddha Medicine (a Tamil form of natural medicine) June 1st - 4th. Dr. B. Sundhara Meenal BSMS was the presenter. She started the course by explaining the importance of the natural herbs that are available in and around



us. She further taught that though it takes time to heal, there will surely be an effect on the diseases. She mentioned many times, health is wealth and it needs to be well cared for and above all, we need to show love and care because it is God's unique gift to each individual. Brothers were happy that she taught them how to administer first aid with the natural herbs available in our garden. When there was time for questions, she clarified their doubts and the brothers benefitted greatly. Towards the end, Fr. Samson, Superior, thanked Dr. Meenal for spending her time teaching the brothers the value of Tamil natural medicines available all around us.

Back to Usual

CHENNAI - After a six week summer vacation Don Guanella Special School reopened on June 6th. Fr. Samson, Superior, celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit in the presence of Fr. S. A. Lourdu Raj, the director, Fr. Michael the assistant director, staff, children and their parents. It was a grace filled time for the children and parents, after the



long gap of their summer holidays. There were 30 new admissions this year, which is a sign of God's desire for the Guanellian mission to extend to far places. During the inaugural Mass Fr. Samson emphasized that God loves us and therefore He entrusts the vulnerable to our loving care, hence with joy and vigor we need to love our mission.

Renewal of Vows

CHENNAI - For Guanellians, the month of June remains a Month of Fervor as our Founder mentions, because in this month the perpetually professed confreres renew their vows. On June 8th ten priests at Don Guanella Major Seminary renewed their vows in the Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr. A. Periyamayagam presided over Mass and Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, gave the homily. He

spoke of the devotion that our founder had to the Heart of Jesus and reminded us that our hearts must be like the heart of Jesus burning with love for the poor, needy and all those who say I have no one. At the end of the Mass the confreres renewed their vows to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Good-Bye and Hello

DINDIGUL - It was in 2013 that the Guanellians took over a new parish, St. Antony's Church, Kallathupatti. Fr. John Paul was the first parish priest and has successfully completed five years of shepherding the parish. On June 10th he was given a farewell after Mass. Fr. Lawrence Thambusamy was appointed second parish priest of St. Antony's Church. Before the inaugural and installation ceremony there was a procession from the main road



of the village welcoming the Provincial Superior, Fr. Soosai Rathinam, and Fr. Lawrence with a garland. Then the installation ceremony began. Fr. M. A. Antony, the Vicar Forane, conducted the ceremony. Fr. Lawrence presided over the mass. Fr. Soosai preached the homily, explaining the Word of God, thanking the people for their support and insisting that they extend their full cooperation to the new parish priest. After Mass the people thanked Fr. John Paul and welcomed Fr. Lawrence with a shawl. They also honored all the fathers who were present especially Fr. Visuwasam and Fr. Kulandai Samy, Provincial councilors. Thereafter sisters

from religious communities thanked and welcomed the parish priests with a shawl. Hearty congratulations and a sense of gratitude to Fr. Achariyam who served as the assistant parish priest for the past two years. To close the event, Fr. Visuwasam thanked the gathering and advised the people to grow in spirituality and unity.

Gifts from the Government



CHENNAI - Don Guanella Special School is grateful to all the generous hearts who help in its daily activities. On June 22nd Mrs. Sundaravalli, the collector of Thiruvulur District, donated two wheelchairs and 17 walkers for our special children. We are always grateful for their generous contribution to our mission. Fr. S. A. Lourduraj the director of DGSS approached the collector's office to request the wheelchairs and she was generous enough to provide them knowing the need and mission that DGSS offers for the special children of the greater Thiruvulur District. On receiving the items Fr. Lourduraj expressed his vote of sincere thanks to the collector. We firmly believe that God's providence never stops knocking on the door of the needy and abandoned.

First Residential Home in India

CHENNAI - God is ever-faithful to those who call on Him with hope. Don Guanella Major Seminary is ever thankful to God for helping them realize His work. In fact it took many long years to actualize this project. With all the strenuous efforts taken by the community fathers and the major superiors, the work to



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A New Beginning

CHELSEA - Stephon Gohler, a St. Louis Center resident, graduated from the Washtenaw Intermediate School District Young Adult Program on Wednesday, June 6th. He was a favorite among his peers and was chosen to give the introduction to the media presentation "The Class of 2018." Stephon was also given the



"Martin Gersh Student Recognition Award," chosen by the school staff. After begin presented his diploma he had a celebration at St. Louis Center with all of the residents present. In the fall Stephon will begin a new job at Chelsea High School working in the kitchen. He is very excited to begin this new chapter of his life.

Village Officially Opened

CHELSEA - A new era began for the Guanellian Family in the United States, as the formal dedication of St. Louis Guanella Village and the Grand Opening of four new Children's Homes for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) took place on the grounds of St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Now, 58 years after arriving in the U.S. from Italy, the Servants of Charity are providing a continuum of care for children as young as five, and adults as old as 77 years of age who need assisted living services. St. Louis Center will also begin serving girls with I/DD aged 5-18 years of age for the first time in its history in one of the four Children's Homes. Each home has five bedrooms,



a kitchen, a modern dining room, living room, sensory/play room, laundry room, and caregiver work areas. The homes were specially

designed for the needs of children on the autism spectrum, and feature soft, natural color palates, full spectrum LED

lighting in each room and plenty of natural lighting.

The Grand Opening Celebration drew 300 people to a 4:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Very Rev. Bishop Emeritus Carl F. Mengeling of the Diocese of Lansing along with ten priests from the Servants of Charity Congregation and the local community. Following Mass, the crowd swelled to over 400 people to hear words of welcome from Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO of St. Louis Center, along with a history lesson about St. Louis Center from Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Community Superior. Bishop Mengeling and Fr. Addari cut the ribbon to officially open the Children's Homes, and then food and entertainment commenced, in spite of the rains that came pouring down shortly after the ribbon cutting. While Bishop Mengeling blessed each home with Holy Water, God did His part from above.

Cows and Ice Cream

CHELSEA - On June 18th the St. Louis Center residents and staff ventured out to the Calder Dairy Farm for a tour. They were able to go on a hay ride around the farm, feed and milk the cows and even have a bit of ice cream. They had ample time to enjoy the farm and even had a picnic lunch.



Faithfest 2018

CHELSEA - For the third year in a row several of the residents of St. Louis Center were given tickets to attend the Christian music concert held on the grounds of the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt MI. The event,



Faithfest, was held on June 23rd this year with more fun and opportunities for family. Several nationally known artists performed and Matt Maher even played music during the Mass that was celebrated by Bishop Earl Boyea of the Lansing Diocese. The residents were invited to take up the gifts during Mass. They enjoyed the concert with the other 7500 people in attendance that day.

Playing Golf and Giving Glory

CHELSEA - For twenty-four years, St. Louis Center has held a major golf outing fundraiser known as the Golf & Glory Outing, and combined with an exclusive dinner at Paesano's Italian Restaurant in Ann Arbor, this year's results were better than ever.



On Sunday, June 24th, owners Michael and Bridget Roddy provided dinner for 50 guests who came to honor NFL legend Tom Nowatzke of Saline, who is also a member of the St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council and Legacy Campaign. Nowatzke was drafted number one by the Detroit Lions in 1965, traded to the Baltimore Colts in 1970, and starred in Super Bowl V in January 1971; scoring a fourth quarter touchdown to tie a game that the Colts went on to win 16-13.

The following day on June 25th, the 24th Annual Golf and Glory Outing was held at UM Golf Course in Ann Arbor, MI, and 142 players came out to enjoy eighteen

holes of golf in perfect weather conditions. Along with prizes for the winning teams, golfers enjoyed a great meal prepared by UM Catering, a live



and silent auction of sports memorabilia, a visit from Celebrity Chairman and broadcaster George Blaha, and the drawing of the winning ticket for the annual Alaskan Cruise Raffle.



India (continued from p. 4)

build a residential home for the first time in India began February 12, 2017 when the foundation stone was laid. It is a memorable day in the history of the Guanellian family as the work was finished June 29, 2018. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, the Provincial Superior, unveiled and blessed the house. He celebrated the holy Mass in the august presence of 30 priests, other religious and the faithful. During his homily Fr. Rathinam expressed his sincere thanks to the community fathers for carrying out this project meticulously; he presented them a gift as a token of appreciation. Fr. Samson, Community Superior, thanked all the benefactors and well wishers for their generosity towards God's work for the needy and unloved in society. And he also said that Fr. Guanella is happy and blessing us from above for this work. A fellowship meal was shared in remembrance of this celebration.

Give the Lord

KUMBAKONAM - It was a great joy for Guanella Nagar Parish when ten parish children received First Holy Communion. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. A. John Bosco. In his homily he said, First Holy Communion is a Catholic ceremony which marks a child's first

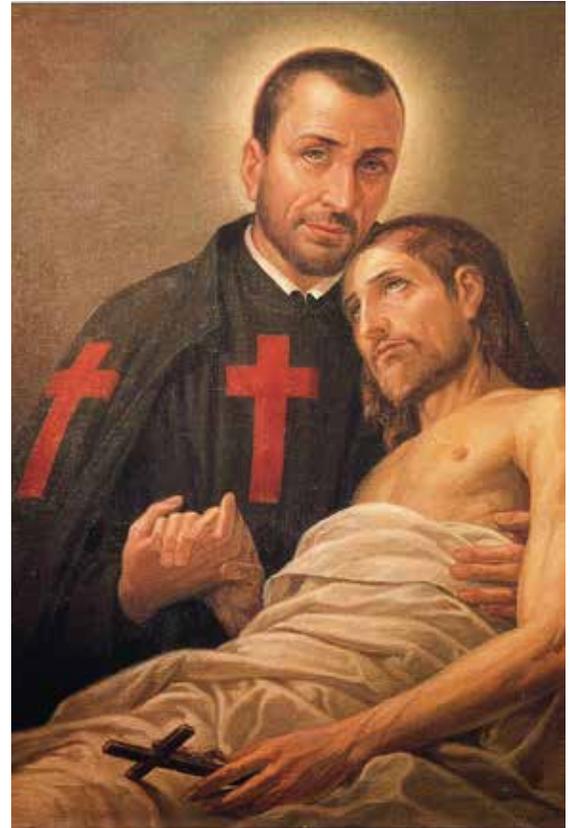
reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist refers to Christ's body and blood present in the consecrated host on the altar, and Catholics believe that the consecrated bread and wine are actually the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ. It was



highly spiritual and emotional for them. Fr. Vincent and Srs. Juli and Siron prepared the children spiritually for the past twenty-seven days. Hence, their parents, God-parents, relatives and friends were very happy. The saints in heaven were delighted to intercede for us.

July Calendar of Events

- 3 **St. Thomas, Apostle**
Foundation Day - India
- 4 **Anniversary of the First Communion of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1869)**
- 7-14 **Perumpandi:** Feast of Our Lady of Periyannayaki
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
Grass Lake: Guanellian Cooperators Memorial Dedication and Potluck
- 16 **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**
Chelsea: Italian American Delegates Golf Outing to Benefit - SLC
- 18 **St. Camillus de Lellis** → → → → →
- 18-26 **Santhanalpuram:** Feast of St. Anne
- 19 **Grass Lake:** St. Joseph Day- PUSJ
- 21 **Chelsea:** Memorial Outing to Benefit - SLC
- 22 **St. Mary Magdalene**
- 25 **St. James, Apostle**
- 26 **Sts. Joachim and Anne** ↙



Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. C. Lourduraj:** birthday
- 3 **Bro. Paul Dao Nguyen Van:** birthday
- 8 **Fr. Arulraj:** birthday
- 10 **Fr. Benson, Bro. Arun Kumar A., Bro. Jestin Jeromin A.:** birthday
- 11 **Fr. Wellington:** birthday
- 15 **Fr. Arokiadass:** ordination day
- 18 **Bro. Bosco Yesuraj M.:** birthday
- 20 **Bro. Philomin Raja S.:** birthday
- 22 **Fr. Sebastian:** ordination day
- 24 **Fr. Satheesh:** ordination day
- 25 **Fr. James Stanley Babu:** feast day
- 26 **Fr. Nevis:** ordination day
- 28 **Bro. M. Jeyaseelan, Nov. Karre Yohan:** birthday
- 30 **Fr. M. John Paul:** birthday
- 31 **Fr. Loyola Diraviam:** feast day

Reflections
MIDWEEK
FROM PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH

In February, the Pious Union of St. Joseph will begin sharing an email offering a Midweek Reflection. Reflections will be quotes from the Bible or by Saints offering you a moment of reflection in the midst of your week.

Interested in receiving the weekly reflection to your inbox? Please share your email address with Kelly Flaherty at kellyf@stlouiscenter.org.

Have questions or comments about this newsletter? Email the Communications and Community Relations Office at: kellyf@stlouiscenter.org