

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Easter - About Turn Possible

April 2019

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Dear Confreres,

We are in the middle of the Lenten season awaiting to personally experience the risen Lord. If Jesus would not have risen from the tomb, there would be no Christianity today, no church either. *And if Christ had not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith* (1Cor 15:14). Our Christian faith is anchored in the resurrection of the Lord. This is the reason that the entire liturgy is oriented toward Easter Sunday and all other Sundays. Easter Sunday is the Feast of all feasts in the liturgy of the Church.

So, Jesus of Nazareth will hereafter be called the risen Lord. Thus the tomb has become His second womb which not only begets the risen Lord but the fearless Apostles (who were so afraid of losing their life that they locked themselves in a room) and eventually the Alleluia Christian community, the compendium of the entire teaching of the Lord and touchstone of Gospel values was revealed.

The experience of the risen Lord caused Saul to make a U-turn in his life and he did just the opposite of what he had in mind (1Cor 15: 3-8, Acts. 9: 3-9). In the same way, the Risen Lord experience did not allow St. Peter to sit and relax but to witness in public (Acts 3:15). The people who were selfish



... Christ died for our sins; He was buried; He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures ...

1Cor 15,3-4

found real happiness in sharing. The people who had security in hoarding their possessions for tomorrow found their security in the common good and community living (Acts 2: 42-47). People who were divisive and excluded others became inclusive, creating a new fraternity called Christians in spite of being Jews and Gentiles, despite having different lifestyles and customs (Acts. 10:34). Just the opposite was possible because the risen Lord was present amidst them. This 'I have seen the Lord' experience (Jn 20:18) will topple down all our barriers and limitations and will make all of us say again and again, 'My Lord and My God' (Jn 20: 28). May Easter joy fill our hearts and minds and make us torch bearers of

the Easter light saying I will obey the Lord first (Acts 4:19).

Happy Easter!

Fr. Ronald J, SdC

Provincial Superior

April Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 3-14 Plenary Council Meeting - USA
- 18 Maundy Thursday - JB Estate
- 19 Ennur: Good Friday
- 21 Easter - Besant Nagar, Meroseapuram and Palavakkam
- 28 Hosur: Annual Retreat - 1st Group

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**“For God so loved . . .”
By Fr. Amal, SdC**

We are in the middle of our Lenten journey and we prepare ourselves to celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin and death through an examination of conscience, penance services and the sacrament of reconciliation. What is it about what we are preparing to celebrate? It is the celebration of God’s extravagant love for you and for me. “God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son” (John 3:16). This verse is not just about Christmas but more so about Easter. The purpose of His incarnation is our redemption and the passion, death and resurrection was necessary to fulfill God’s loving purpose. If He was intentional in laying down His life, it was for us. It was love. “When Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end” (Jn 13:1). Every step on the road to Calvary meant, “I love you.”



We know the depth of someone’s love for us by what it costs him: if he sacrifices his life for us, it assures us of deeper love than if he only sacrifices a few bruises. So we will see the depth of Christ’s love by the greatness of what it cost Him. We know the depth of someone’s love for us by how little we deserve it. If we have treated him well all our life, and have done all that he expects of us, then when he loves us, it will not prove as much love as it would if he loved us when we had offended him, and shunned him, and disdained him. The more undeserving we are, the more amazing and deep is his love for us. So we will see the depth of Christ’s love in relation to how undeserving are the objects of his love. We know the depth of someone’s love for us by the greatness of the benefits we receive in being loved. We know the depth of someone’s love for us by the freedom with which they love us. If a person does good things for us because

someone else is making him when he doesn’t really want to, then we don’t think the love is very deep. Love is deep in proportion to its liberty.

“For Balthasar to take the paschal mystery as not merely redemptive ‘for us’ in its effect but revelatory of the Trinitarian being is quite remarkable”. God, who is love, having accomplished on the Cross the divine judgment on sin, in the descent freely takes responsibility for the flourishing of creation, in the context of human freedom and sin. In the descent, Trinitarian love itself enters into the realm of death and desolation and gathers our emptiness into God’s triune self, thus revealing the sheer graciousness and glory of the love that is God. Henceforth, even hell belongs to Christ; even hell is taken up and into the Trinitarian communion of love.

Therefore, the moments we live this month are moments of reminding us of God’s love for us. The key is in understanding that God has revealed the depth of His love for us not through material things, health or favor, but in Jesus’ sacrifice: “God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8). In Jesus’ suffering, we find purpose for our own pain and we experience the fullness of God’s love revealed. Allow this time to penetrate our hearts with his love. If God so loved us, we also must love one another” (Jn 4:7, 11). Just as our experience of God’s love can make us more loving, so also our efforts at becoming more loving and kind can open us up to God’s love. As we put forth the effort to love one another, we find it easier to see Jesus in our brothers and sisters. We find ourselves feeling closer to the Lord and His love. May the joy of Easter fill our hearts that we may share His love with our brothers and sisters.



Summer Program for Seminarians

MYSORE - Preethiya Sevakaru seminarians began intensive summer courses on March 1st soon after their exams. The classes were taught by the Fathers on topics such as the Founder's Life and Spirituality, Conversational English, practicing cursive writing, Reading, Music, karnatic vocals and general knowledge of the Liturgy. The classes were completed on March 18th.



prayer by the children. Mr. Ramanna, Harohalli Grama Panchayat President and Mr. Gurumellenna, Panchayat Councilor, were the chief guests. They delivered their messages stressing the value of education as well as the Guanellians service to them. The children performed various programs such as drama, dances and skits. Both the guests and the Fathers gave prizes to the children as encouragement for the competitions organized by the teachers. As appreciation all the children received school stationery items to help them with their studies.

Former Students with New Grace

CHENNAI - On March 5th eight new priests together came to say a thanksgiving Mass at their Alma Mater, Don Guanella Major Seminary, after each had offered their first thanksgiving Masses in their home towns.



Fr. Arun presided over the Holy Mass. Fr. Vimal Thambu Samy gave an erudite homily. The other priests concelebrated the Eucharist in a pious way making the Liturgy more active and grace-filled. Fr. Samson, Community Superior, wished all of them the very best for their future ministry and gave them some brotherly guidance to be a faithful servant in the vineyard of the Lord for the service of humanity and the love of God. The day included an agape meal in honor of the eight new priests.

Evening School Annual Day

MYSORE - Don Guanella Evening School celebrated Annual Day on March 9th. The Program began with a

Day of Fraternity

CHENNAI - From young to old everyone loves the fun of a picnic, an adventure to the unknown wonder world. Don Guanella Special School planned a one day picnic to Queensland, an amusement park in Chennai for the Staff and Parents of the good children, to make their hearts overflow with joy and happiness. They learned many things during this picnic. It helped them discover ways to develop fraternity, friendship and moreover to relax and refresh themselves from difficult school work, tasks and other miscellaneous obligations. The picnic made the staff and parents happy, and left them with unforgettable memories.



Annual Day and Feast Day

CUDDALORE - On March 16th St. Joseph's Evening School children celebrated its patron saint's feast day and Annual Day to conclude the academic year. The celebration, held in the auditorium, started with the welcome address given by the Director of the Evening School, Fr. Arockia Raj. He welcomed the gathering, especially the chief guest Mr. Lourdu Samy, former physical director of St. Joseph's High Sec. School, Kottapakkam. In his speech, Mr. Lourdu Samy spoke about the Evening School as a great opportunity for the children as well as their families; he invited the children to make use of



bags and prizes. The four outstanding students were awarded brand new bicycles. Fr. Ronald was the chief guest and other benefactors were in attendance to solemnize the event. We give thanks to God for the gift of successful missions to abandoned children, youth and the aged. God has been very gracious to grant us His providence and care. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner before departing with beautiful gifts and prizes.



Community Picnic

MYSORE - Brothers in the seminary academic program went for their annual picnic - March 19th-21st. The

first day began by visiting some of the important historical places of the Mysore area such as Sangama and Tippu Sultan palaces. "Sangama" is the confluence of 3 holy rivers.



In Srirangapatna we visited the palaces of Tippu Sultan, who is known as the Tiger of Mysore, to learn his life story, an important subject in Indian history. For a bit of community entertainment they enjoyed some time at GRS Fantasy Park where they spent the whole day. At last they visited Krishnarajasagar Reservoir which is the water source for the entire state of Karnataka.

A Day with St. Joseph

CHENNAI - The whole world takes pride in honoring the just saint on March 19th each year by celebrating the solemnity of St. Joseph. Don Guanella Major Seminary had a double joy, honoring St. Joseph and thanking the good hearts who help them in their vocational journey



it for their better future. One of the parents shared her feelings and gratitude to the Institute and St. Guanella for the precious service given to the children. Fr. Peter Sebastian, the Superior, distributed prizes for the various competitions: regular attendance, best student, good attitude. Fr. Anandan, Fr. Mathias and Fr. Loyola were present for the program and they also distributed prizes to the students. After the cultural program and a word of thanks a delicious meal was shared to conclude the celebration.

Guanella Preethin Nivas Missions Rejoice

BANGALORE - GPN was full of laughter March 17th as it celebrated the Annual day of its four missions: Oratory, Evening School, Guanellian Youth Movement, and Aged Home. The Tent of Love was filled with the children, youth and their parents, the area religious and the GLM/GC members. The celebration included well organized cultural programs from each of the missions. All of the students were offered new attractive school

spiritually and economically. There were 50 people who attended the Mass at Don Guanella Residential Home. The Holy Eucharist was more meaningful with the august presence of Fr. Samson, Superior, who presided over the Mass; and Fr. Francis, the Administrator, who gave a simple and wise homily highlighting the celebration of the day by citing from the life of the popes and the Church documents. As a token of gratitude, Fr. Samson honored each benefactor with a memento of Mother of Divine Providence. During the meal that followed, Fr. Samson wholeheartedly thanked them all for their support and for involving themselves in the formation of the future pillars of the Church.

St. Joseph's Feast

CUDDALORE - St. Joseph's Seminary celebrated the feast of St. Joseph, the patron saint, on March



19th. A great multitude of faithful from the parish, Don Guanella Boys Home, DSMP hostel girls and seminarians gathered for a car procession and to recite a solemn Rosary. That evening was blessed with various intentions and prayers during the holy Rosary. The procession led to the seminary chapel for Holy Mass. Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, was the celebrant. He encouraged all the faithful to imitate the obedience and humility of St. Joseph's in family and religious life. His homily was thought provoking and he said to let St. Joseph be the model of your spirituality. After Mass, dinner was shared. Fr. Ronald blessed the new image of St. Joseph in the chapel in remembrance of this solemn celebration.

GLM Present Way of Cross

BANGALORE - As a part of their Lenten ministry, on March 21st the Guanellian Lay Movement members organized a Way of the Cross at Blessed Clare Nivas, a home for special children run by the Guanellian Sisters. They trained the children to enact the Stations of the Cross which proved to be quite a challenge with a rewarding result. The children enthusiastically participated and they were so eager to get dressed as different characters,



though they did not understand fully what it meant. Under the guidance of Fr. Adaikalam, GLM coordinator, the GLM members participated in every aspect of this event. From dressing up the children, training them, conducting the Way of the Cross, praying for them, preparing lunch, serving the food for them and also cleaning up everything. It was a different experience

for the members and the children, something different from the usual Way of the Cross. It was indeed a very fruitful and remarkable moment.

Lenten Pilgrimage

DINDIGUL - The people of St. Antony's Church, Kallathupatti, went on a two-day Lenten pilgrimage to Kottar and Tuticorin March 23rd-24th. While there



they visited the place of Martyr Devasagayam Pillai and the places where St. Francis Xavier visited and converted the people by his powerful preaching of the Gospel. 72 persons, the parish priest, assistant parish priest and CIC sisters made the pilgrimage. They visited 13 churches, prayed with strong faith and meditated on the Way of the Cross in each church.

Benefactor's Day and a Fond Farewell

CUDDALORE - March 24th we celebrated the Benefactor's day and Farewell to Fr. Amalraj. St. Joseph's Seminary hosted the benefactors to honor them for their generous support. Fr. Anandhan welcomed the thirty

benefactors and their families while the seminarians presented roses to each of them. Fr. Vincent gave the talk "Benefactors are God's Angels." Some cultural events followed. Fr. Loyola shared his experiences from life in Manila with the benefactors. Holy Mass was celebrated with Fr. Amal Raj as the homilist. Fr. Amal Raj, his loving mother and his brother's family were honored by cutting cake and many cultural events during lunch. He expressed heartfelt thanks to the entire community for their witness. The Cuddalore community also articulated its sentiments and prayers to Fr. Amal Raj and said Bon Voyage to his new mission in the USA.



Lent - Our Souls' Springtime



KOPPAKA - On March 24th, the GLM paid a visit to the Mother Teresa home for the mentally retarded which is located in Vengayagudem, Eluru. The members of the GLM decided to spare their income to assist the poor. Mr. Arjun, Mr. Paul and Mr. Ravi visited the Home



in advance (Mother Teresa) in order to assess their needs. They made suggestions to all the members who decided to visit the home as a group. They all shared the joy with the children and the religious sisters of the missionaries of the poor. Although the children were not able to communicate verbally, the love language was communicated by gentle touch. All together prayed and sang songs of praise. The children's joy was expressed by their simple smiles. The things were

shared to the institute and they expressed the gratitude. It was indeed a happy journey, our soul's springtime to give to the poor. The GLM also gave school supplies, including backpacks, to the gypsy children who are going to school.

Relax for a While



CHENNAI - It is always a thrill to be free from our daily life programs. After completing examinations and getting the results, brothers from Don Guanella Major Seminary started their summer vacation March 25th. Fr. Samson, Community Superior, congratulated everyone for having successfully completed their academics for this scholastic year. For a bit of relaxation the brothers and the fathers of the community went to Kishkinta, an amusement park in Tambaram, on March 27th. It was a joyful day for the whole community to be away from their normal workload and enjoy a time of fraternity. Brothers thanked the confreres for organizing this event, which brought the spirit of unity and fraternal love.

Live Way of Cross

KUMBAKONAM - "Lent is a time to experience God's mercy and to extend God's mercy to others," says Pope Francis. During the Lenten season, the Stations of the Cross were animated in substations of the Guanella Nagar Parish: Swamimalai, Thirupurampiam, Asoor, Jabamalipuram St. Sebastin Church, Velakudi, Perumpandi and Santhanalpuram. We invited the Celerician Fathers to animate this Holy event. Holy Mass was celebrated after the Stations. The people were really inspired, "The season of Lent, a graceful time



all over the world, is a time to renew our relationship with God and neighbor". Then Fr. A. John Bosco, the parish priest, thanked and

urged the people to make a good confession during this Lenten season. Parish pious groups Legion of Mary, Guanellian Lay Movement, Parish Council members, and the parishioners also came. Tea and snacks were served.

Stations of the Cross

CUDDALORE - On March 29th, St. Joseph's Seminary was filled with parishioners, boys home students and people from neighboring villages to meditate upon the passion and death of Christ. Brothers of St.



Joseph's Seminary prepared and presented an enactment of the passions and unexplainable agony of Jesus Christ our savior to the faithful. All those present were taken up by seeing the realistic enactment. The parishioners especially appreciated the effort and encouraged them to do more extraordinary things in the upcoming days to assist with their Lenten journey.

22nd Annual Day Celebration

CHENNAI - March 30th the Don Guanella Special School campus was filled with joy. The 22nd Annual Day event, which celebrates the

conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year, started by welcoming the chief guests, Mr. Selva Kumar, M.A.M. Phil,



Phd, Assistant commission of Police and Vice Principal Ty.PRS - St. Thomas Mount; Mrs. Santha Kumari, Chief Administrative and Clinical Dietician, Cancer Hospital – Adayr; Mr. Siva Kumar, Managing Director, S.B. Cinemas and Mrs. Latha, Creative Director. The chief guests were filled with admiration while watching the performances of the children and encouraged the children to be filled with hope, to strive to work hard in order to exceed their goals. The program included performances by the children such as dances, songs, annual report and mime. One of the parents shared her feelings and gratitude to the Institute and to St. Guanella for the precious service given to her children. Prizes were distributed for achievements such as regular attendance, best student and best teacher. After the vote of thanks Annual Day concluded by sharing a delicious meal.

Evening Schools Celebrate Annual Day

VATLURU - Annual day for the evening schools was celebrated on March 31st. There are ten evening schools run by the Vatluru community where students are given educational help, moral values and training to develop their talents. Students from all of the evening schools gathered at Guanella Bhavan Seminary, Koppaka. Mr. Ravi and Fr. Suresh organized games for the children and they all participated with great enthusiasm. After the games there was a felicitation where Fr. Suresh, Fr. Franklin, Fr. Assisi and Sr. Savari were invited to preside over the meeting. The children danced and showed



off their talents. Fr. Assisi addressed the children. He encouraged them to study in order to build a bright future and to discipline themselves to build up a better society. During the program the winners of the games were given prizes. All the members of the evening schools were given school bags. The celebration ended with supper.

Lenten Recollection

BANGALORE - Nearly 300 people attended a Lenten recollection on March 31st including the Guanellian Lay Movement members and other lay faithful from the area at Guanella Preethi Nivas. Fr. Kirubakaran, SdB from Pondicherry was the preacher for the recollection. He was accompanied by a group of youth from Chennai. He gave a talk about Joyful Sunday, the importance of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in our lives. Many were blessed and touched by his words.

Praise and worship was soul moving and to everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit by the anointing with oil. The day culminated with confession and adoration. It was a fruitful occasion for souls to prepare for the Sunday celebration.



On a Lenten Journey

E. PROVIDENCE - The students of Sacred Heart School in Rhode Island began Lent March 6th by being marked with a Cross of ashes on their foreheads as a witness to their faith at Ash Wednesday Mass. To remain on the spiritual



path toward Lent, the students pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday in the church. Please pray for these young people to grow closer to Jesus through their Lenten practices.

Living the Montessori Life

CHELSEA - The kitchen staff at St. Louis Center has implemented a new program based on teachings in the Montessori Lifestyle training. Each Thursday evening two cooking classes are held in the main kitchen based upon the skill level of the participants. Some of the younger residents learned to make cake from a boxed mix to share in their houses. Some of the adults assisted with dinner preparations for the priests and made their own dinner before heading out that night to Friendship Bible class.



Celebrating St. Joseph

GRASS LAKE - The Pious Union of St. Joseph welcomed 12 tour busses to the Shrine for its patronal feast March 16th-19th. The many pilgrims who came to find spiritual refreshment are Chaldean Catholics who have a deep devotion to the foster-father of Jesus. They were surprised and pleased this year to find holy cards and stories prepared for them in Arabic, their primary language. Guanellian Cooperators Robert and Amel Dallo are the main organizers for the pilgrims, encouraging more to make the journey each year. The Women's Guild

is on hand to be sure that the needs of the pilgrim are met: refreshments, spiritual gift items, candles and St. Joseph's bread. Masses were celebrated, people anointed,



candles lit and reverence paid to the silent saint of PUSJ

The Train is in the Station

CHELSEA - March 19th marked another special day for the residents of SLC. Rev. John R. Morris dedicated a model "O" scale Lionel train and village to SLC for the residents to operate and enjoy. Rev. Morris, who was the former pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Freedom Twp., was present with his wife, Karol, his son David, and their daughter Deborah Colesa. Rev. Morris' original collection included 16 model trains on a 27 by 34 foot layout in his former basement. A group of SLC residents gathered for the presentation, Rev. Morris turned on the tracks, started the three train sets, and proudly shouted, "Welcome to the train station! There are three running model trains here, so I hope all of you can look with your eyes and enjoy



them. If you listen carefully, you can hear the sounds of the people, the chickens, and other animals. This is all yours to enjoy.”

Feast for a Leprechaun



CHELSEA - In honor of the Irish and their patron, St. Patrick, the SLC residents were treated to wee bit of Ireland on Wednesday, March 20th. Everyone dressed in something green and enjoyed shepherd's pie and other green delicacies. No Irish feast is complete without a leprechaun to brighten the atmosphere, so 'Ryan' played the part of Lucky and insured that each resident got a bit of gold from his pot at the end

of the rainbow.

Our Community Cares

CHELSEA - A group of staff members from DTE Energy have found out how much fun it is to reach out and give some

of their time to the residents of SLC. On Thursday, March 21st residents in the Day Program went to local bowling alley to play a few games and have lunch with the volunteers from DTE Cares.



The residents laughed and cheered as they bowled strikes and spares with the assistance of the volunteers. The day program looks forward to spending more time with their new friends soon, maybe even challenging them to a kickball game at SLC.

Championship Team

E. PROVIDENCE - Sacred Heart School is pleased to announce that the boy's basketball team took first place



in the championship of the Catholic Athletic League Jr. Division. The students have worked very hard to improve their skills and learn to truly work together to achieve this amazing team honor. Many thanks to the coaching staff for their many hours dedicated to leading the team to this level.

Fr. Satheesh Honored

CHELSEA - Fr. Satheesh Alphonse was honored with the St. John Bosco Award by Huron Valley Catholic School. Before becoming pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center, Fr. Satheesh was chaplain at HVCS. He attributes his growth in holiness to his time spent at HVCS with the staff and students.



Tim Kotyuk, HVCS principal presented him with the award at their annual dinner auction March 23rd.

Spring Break

CHELSEA - The SLC residents enjoyed a week off from school and several



activities that were planned. On Monday, March 25th they went on a scavenger hunt on the SLC campus.

Wednesday they went to the Whitetail Deer Museum to visit the doe and baby deer. They liked being able to feed the deer.

A Night at the Prom

CHELSEA - Our Lady of Fatima hosted a prom for persons with disabilities on Saturday, March 30th. Many of the residents enjoyed dancing and making new friends. (see photo p. 10)

April Calendar of Events

- 1 **Cuddalore:** Vocation Camp - St. Joseph Seminary
- 4 **Cuddalore:** University Exams for Brothers
- 7 **Chelsea:** Guardian Angel Dinner Dance to benefit SLC - Italian American Club Livonia
- Kumbakonam:** Retreat for Parishioners
- 8 **Anniversary of the First Communion of St. Louis Guanella (1852)**
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day-PUSJ
- 13 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
- Grass Lake:** Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 14 **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**
- 18 **Maundy Thursday**
- 19 **Friday of the Passion of the Lord**
- Grass Lake:** St. Joseph Day - PUSJ
- 20 **Holy Saturday**
- Feast of Blessed Clare Bosatta**
- 21 **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection**
- Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Clare Bosatta**
- 24 **Chelsea:** Quartermania to Benefit SLC
- 25 **St. Mark, Evangelist**
- 27 **Cuddalore:** Annual Retreat for Brothers by Fr. Bernard
- 28 **Divine Mercy Sunday**
- 30 **Feast of St. Joseph Cottolengo**



Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. Fortunato Turati, Fr. Badugu Christuraj, Bro. Anil Merugu, Bro. Johnson:** birthday; **Fr. Piero Lippoli:** ordination day
- 3 **Fr. Jerin:** birthday
- 6 **Fr. Francis Assisi:** birthday
- 8 **Fr. Britto:** birthday
- 10 **Nov. Carlos Nayak N.:** birthday
- 13 **Fr. Selvakani:** birthday
- 16 **Fr. Vincent M.:** birthday
- 20 **Fr. Gabriel G., Bro. S. Packiyaraj:** birthday
- 21 **Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, Fr. Silvio De Nard:** ordination day
- 24 **Fr. Antony Samy:** birthday
- 28 **Fr. Alfonso Crippa:** ordination day



Prom Night in USA

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