

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



My Easter – Today & Tomorrow

Forty days of Lent is over and we have begun 50 days of Eastertide. Easter, Passover or the Resurrection of the Lord is described and believed as Christ's victory over death or the verification of all that Jesus preached and did or the prototype of our rising from death. By the time we started to proclaim Happy Easter this year, we were shocked and saddened by the bomb blasts in Sri Lanka just a few miles away. It looks like those innocent faithful who entered the Church seeking new life on Easter day ended their life journey here on earth in no time. We express our heartfelt condolences and prayers in solidarity with the people there.

If we look back, we began the Lenten journey with the Ashes reminding ourselves "you are dust and unto dust you shall return" – in a way it is a very discouraging tone as if our life is nothing but futility. But today we are called to shout along with St. Paul, "O death, where is your victory? Where is your sting?" (1Cor 15, 55)

What is Easter for me today? What does it signify for my tomorrow? What is the newness it brings?

1. **My God is not in the Tomb of the Dead** – "He is not here" (Mt 28:6) which means I cannot find God anywhere and in anything which is deadly, which does not produce life, in other words, it could be my inclinations, pride, avarice, divisiveness etc. If I

highlight and treat my body, money, position, intelligence as my God and spend most of my time in those things, then it is as if I am looking for God in the tomb of the dead.

2. **Personal God Experience:** "I have seen the Lord" (Jn 20,18); "We have seen the Lord" (Jn 20,25); "Last of all he appeared to me also, as to one born abnormally" (1 Cor 15:8); "Didn't our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24,32). Thus Easter is not finished with the liturgical commemoration of what happened long ago but a call to verify "Who God is for me? What is my relationship with him? What is my gospel for the people of this time?"

3. **Unity of Life:** Acts 2,42-47 gives us this picture of the first Easter people. God became first, the other came next to God and as a consequence, the individuals found inner peace and joy. Regularly they came together for the liturgy of the Word and for the liturgy of the Eucharist. People became concerned about the neighbours and shared their belongings but no one lacked anything. They found space for God, others and personal selves. My Easter life should be a blend of prayer, work, socialization and rest.

4. **New Humanity:** Peter began to speak, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism" (Acts 10,34). In today's world, while we are connected so tightly with one another with the scientific products and media, we at the same time find so many reasons to keep us apart and divided. But the real Easter Christian cannot but openly confess that all humans are equal, my brothers and sisters under the wings of the same Father as Peter had to proclaim.

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"... Jesus has conquered sin and passed through His own pain to the glory of Resurrection."

Pope St. John Paul II

5. **I will Live Forever:** "In Christ all will be made alive" (1Cor 15,22). Death is the highest act of our faith, with the strong belief that God will raise me up. Easter gives us this guarantee that just as we died with Christ, we also will live with him and that answers my tomorrow.

Let me conclude this reflection with the saying **Pope St. John Paul II** "We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know that Jesus has conquered sin and passed through His own pain to the glory of Resurrection. We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song. We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from

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faith that grows through unselfish love, that respects the fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of joy. We realize that Joy is demanding, it demands unselfishness.”

I wish you a fruitful Easter journey.

Fr. Ronald J, SdC

Provincial Superior

May Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1-9 **Hosur:** Annual Retreat
- 9-11 **Bangalore:** Charism School
- 12 **Kumbakonam:** Parish Feast
- 13 **Poonamallee:** First Profession - Bon Secours
- 16 **Varadarajan:** Marriage Feast
- 26 **Chennai:** Renewal of Vows
- 30 **Bangalore:** Entrance to Novitiate



Be with us Mary along the way...

By Fr. Amal, SdC

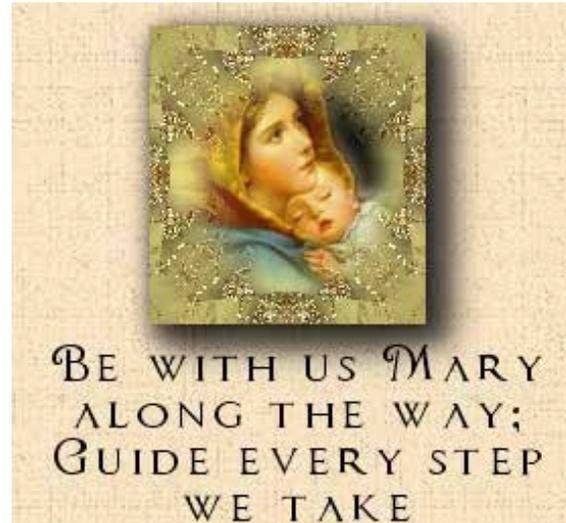
*Be with us Mary along the way,
Guide every step we take.
Lead us to Jesus your loving Son
Come with us, Mary come...*

May is the month in which the earth springs into bloom and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics, and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary "To Jesus through Mary" is a familiar phrase to most Catholics and if we consider our basic human condition, we come to understand God's loving providence even more fully. The whole month is dedicated to our Blessed Lady, Mother of God. The pious practice of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary during the entire month of May has been especially recommended by many Popes.

In a supreme act of generosity, Our Lord, in His agony on the cross, gave His Blessed Mother to us: "When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother'" (John 19, 26-27). The last gift Jesus gave to us before shedding the last drops of His precious and sacred Blood was His mother.

Mary is always mindful of the needs and desires of her children and is most willing to intercede on our behalf if we ask for her assistance. Mary is our loving mother. Her maternal heart is full of love and mercy for her beloved children. She is always waiting for us to turn to her for her motherly guidance. She constantly presents all our prayers to her dear Son, Jesus. Mary is known as the "Gate of Heaven". We need Mary to guide us to heaven so that we may not lose our way by falling into sin.

The life of Mother Mary teaches us, that great sanctity doesn't require spectacular deeds. Rather it is found "in the



hidden and silent sacrifice of each day." To become God-like, to be divinized, we must begin by being very human, accepting from God our condition as ordinary men and women and sanctifying its apparent unimportance.

If we seek Mary, we will find Jesus. And we will learn a bit more about what is in the heart of a God who humbles Himself, discarding all manifestations of His power and majesty to take the form of a servant.

Mary, our mother, is for us both an example and a way. We have to try to be like her, in the ordinary circumstances in which God wants us to live.

*Be with us Mary along the way,
Guide every step we take.*

Walking in Faith

BANGALORE - To make their Lenten observances and penances fruitful, ten Philosophy Brothers and Fr. Gnanaraj, their Rector, went on a pilgrimage walk



to Velankanni and Our Lady of Good Health Basilica. They were under the guidance and protection of Mother Mary throughout the journey which departed from St. Antony Shrine at Melnariyappanur, Chinnasalem on February 4, 2019. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet were recited throughout, giving them strength to reach the destination. They attended Mass in a different parish every day. Fr. Superior gave a talk everyday regarding the miracle of Mother Mary and the purpose of this journey. They cooked under a tree and slept along the roadside. It was Mother Mary who saved them from the scorching sun and from every other danger. The main purpose was to evaluate their vocation and to increase their faith in Christ with the help of the Blessed Mother. After four days of walking they arrived at Velankanni and thanked Mother Mary for her protection. The next day they went to confession and participated in the Tamil Mass. Each person had a different sort of experience; be it spiritual, physical or mystical which will continue to live within them. Forty days of preparation made this journey successful.

Vocation Camp

CUDDALORE - The St. Joseph's Seminary organized a Vocation Camp from April 1st-4th. The seventeen candidates who attended the camp came from three dioceses. The camp was conducted by Fr. Mathias, Fr. Bernard and Fr. Vincent with the help of the other confreres and brothers. The Camp included prayers, Mass, talks, games, recreation, party games, competitions, cultural events, and a trip to Silver Beach. The confreres gave talks on different topics and Sr. Josephine, DSMP also shared her experiences with the candidates on the last day.

The camp began with an ice breaking exercise to know each other's names on the first day of arrival after the dinner. It was amazing that each candidate started to know the names of the others very quickly. Fr. Mathias gave an inspiring talk on vocation. He explained the meaning of vocation and its different types. Fr. Vincent gave a talk based on the biography of St. Louis Guanella and his charism and mission. Fr. Superior gave a talk



on motivation and the session was more conversational. The candidates asked many questions and he provided clarification. Sr. Josephine, DSMP conducted the Morning Prayer service and gave testimony about her experiences with the special children.

The rest of the vocation camp was full of life learning games and fun. They were given enough time for party games and other talents to stage. All the candidates actively participated in their events with great enthusiasm. On the last day they were interviewed by Fr. Superior, Fr. Bernad and Fr. Vincent. Fr. Loyola was the celebrant of the thanksgiving Mass.

Lenten Pilgrimage

KUMBAKONAM - Parishinors planned a Lenten pilgrimage to Mazhai Malai Madha Shrine at

Acharapakkam, and setting out at 5am, reaching their destination around 10:30am. They then meditated on the Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass which was celebrated by Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC. Fr. Praveen Vinodh Kumar, SdC preached the homily, recounting the history of Mazhai Malai Madha and the faith of the surrounding



people. Fr. Praveen sponsored a delicious lunch, followed by personal prayer with Mother Mary. After praying the Way of the Cross, the pilgrims departed for home.

Almsgiving to the Afflicted

CUDDALORE - The GLM members of the Cuddalore community made a surprise visit to the open house ministry on Palm Sunday. The open house ministry includes all of the aged, poor and abandoned homeless in the area, more than 40 came that day. The GLM members were greatly inspired to spend their valuable time with the poor. Together they supervised many events like storytelling, dancing, and singing while the brothers were giving haircuts, manicures and shaving to the elderly. No doubt, the poor enjoyed the presence of the GLM members. They sponsored afternoon meals for everyone at the ministry that day. The Cuddalore community extends its thanks and gratitude to the GLM; and assures them of prayers and well-wishes for their future support of the ministry to the most abandoned on the streets.



Live Way of Cross

BANGALORE - Good Friday is the last day of Christ on earth. It is the day Jesus receives His reward for His love of the people. It calls us to believe that Christ was born and died as a man. Christ died physically but still lives in the hearts of all believers. Holy Friday was given to us to realize that Christ is living in the heart of every person and to remember the sufferings of Christ which redeemed the world. The forty days of Lent help each person to realize his/her wickedness and long to experience the love of Christ who died for his/her sins.



In remembrance of this day the Guanella Preethi Nivas fathers, brothers, GC, GLM and parishioners re-enacted the Way of the Cross. Each Station was given a strong reflection that made people want to cry. The actors brought the scene of Calvary to life, simulating the original Mount Calvary; beginning with the Last Supper



and ending with the burial of Jesus. Our intention was not just to perform the Way of the Cross but to increase our faith in Christ and cultivate prayer, repentance and forgiveness in the hearts of the people. This event is given to us every year not only to remember the

Passion of Christ, but to evaluate our own lives. Based on this, the Good Friday theme was, "I THIRST FOR YOU". Upon reflection, we find that our heart longs for Christ. Around 700 people joined the Way of the Cross also attending the Veneration of the Holy Cross. After the devotionals, the people were given porridge and maintained their silence to reflect on the Passion and Death of Christ.

Jesus Triumphed over Death

BANGALORE - Truly Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia! It is our joy to celebrate the Resurrection of



Jesus on the third day after His death. The Will of God comes to an end with the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. The Resurrection of Jesus symbolizes that those who believe in Christ will die and rise with Him on the last day. The Resurrection of Jesus calls us to believe that even the power of death is in His hand. Every year we celebrate Easter and every year Jesus rises from the dead, but do we really rise in Christ and His love for us? Do we rise from our fallen nature? Do we believe that Jesus died for our sins? To meditate over this, the GPN Community fathers and brothers invited people to focus on the slogan, "RISE WITH ME". The whole liturgy was based on this topic. We started Holy Saturday with Morning Prayer before the Holy Sepulchre and maintained silence all day.

The English Vigil Mass began at 8:00pm with Fr. Adaikalam as the celebrant. His homily focused on freedom from sin, freedom from death and freedom from slavery brought about by Christ. Then the Tamil Vigil Mass began at 11:00pm presided over by Fr. Gnanaraj, Superior of the community, with Fr. Lourdu raj. Fr. Lourdu's homily was connected to current events, telling us that all should avoid gossip and a wicked life. His homily was based on Christ's

messages, "Do not be afraid" and "Peace be with you." People were very happy to participate in the Holy mass to receive the grace of the Risen Christ. At the end, people received Easter eggs and tea, and returned home joyfully with candles and Holy Water.

Vocation Camp

KOPPAKA - A vocation camp was conducted in Andhra Pradesh at Guanella Bhavan Seminary from April 26th-28th. God blessed us with ten candidates, who were all from Vijayawada and the Eluru Diocese. This camp was organized by Fr. Jose Maria Rambabu, in-charge of Andhra Pradesh, with the help of Fr. Benson and Fr. Sunil. The plan of God is working through our activities, and the students were very happy to give a positive response. On the last day we took them to the substations of our



parish to participate in the Holy Mass. During these three days, we organized different spiritual, physical and

entertainment programs to learn about the students and their interests. They were very happy to participate in this camp. Please pray for a positive response.

Perpetual Profession of our Confreres

ROME - The week after Easter was a graceful occasion for our Congregation. The Brothers who had been preparing themselves for their Perpetual Profession from different countries, held a spiritual retreat by walking in the footsteps of our Founder in his native land. They climbed to Savogno where he served as the parish priest for seven years, then visited his native villages of Fraciscio, Gualdera, and Campodolcino.



Finally, they visited Prosto, Traona, Olmo, and Pianello, where Fr. Guanella served as a priest; finishing at the mother house at Como. The retreatants were guided by Don Marco with his reflections and accompanied by Bro. Franco, the General Councillor. The retreat came to an end with the Eucharistic celebration at the Altar of St. Guanella's tomb at the Sacred Heart Shrine in Como. The end of the week was a long-awaited moment for them and for the congregation. On the eve of April 27th, they professed their final commitment to our Congregation in the hands Rev. Fr. Umberto Brugnani, our Superior General at Good Shepherd Church, Via Aurelia. Among them, six brothers are members of the Divine Providence Province.

Holidays with the Lord

CUDDALORE - The brothers of St. Joseph's seminary had three days of annual retreat for the academic year 2018-2019. The retreat began on April 27th and ran until April 30th. Fr. Bernad, SdC, retreat director, provided all of the spiritual activities for the purification of souls and the nourishment of the inner-self. The retreat helped the seminarians deepen their vocation to



religious life, and included Adoration, a dialogue with nature, walking solo, Lectio Divina, holy Mass and other spiritual exercises to assist the seminarians in having an "Abba Father" experience. The different talks of Fr. Bernad enriched their young minds with new ideas in order to live better lives for their future mission. These three days was like a "Re-birth" in the Risen Lord. Many thanks to Fr. Bernad for his support and wish him well in his future ministry.

Diaconal Ordination

ROME - On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28th, sixteen brothers were ordained as Deacons of the Church and for our Congregation at St. Joseph's Basilica, Trionfale by Very Rev. Mons. Cardinal Angelo De Donatis. They were from many different countries, India, Congo, Nigeria, Philippines, and Italy. Among them Bros. Packia raj, Jeyaseelan, Vinnarasan, Irudayaraj, Robert



and Antony Rajan are from the Divine Providence Province. It was a grace filled moment for the whole congregation to celebrate it at the central Church of our congregation in Rome. It was a solemn celebration in which many confreres and the relatives of the brothers participated and prayed for them. After Holy Mass, while the Superior General thanked all in the name of the congregation, Rev. Monsignor blessed the deacons in the name of Pope Francis. It was a great day for the Church and the congregation as they received their new servants.

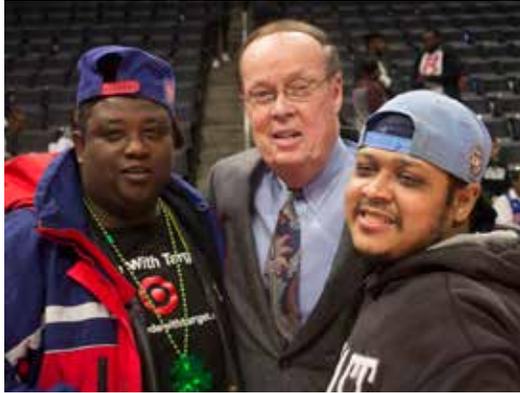
Annual Retreat

HOSUR - The Annual Retreat began on April 28th and will last till May 9th for the Guanellian confreres and sisters. Fr. Fabio Pallotta has been preaching the retreat on the topic, "The Journey of a Disciple" based on the Gospel of Mark. The retreat takes place at Mount Sion Retreat House, Hosur near Bangalore. It is my wish and prayer that this grace-filled time may help us walk better in the footsteps of Christ.



Happy Hoopla

CHELSEA - Thanks to benefactor George Blaha, play-by-play voice of the Detroit Pistons Basketball Team, a contingent of 30 residents and staff members from St. Louis Center enjoyed a Pistons basketball game in Detroit on Wednesday, April 3rd against the Indiana Pacers. Although the Pistons struggled in the game and lost by a score of 108-89; after the game Mr. Blaha invited everyone down to the basketball court to say hello, take photo, and sign autographs. SLC is grateful to George Blaha for his support, and thanks the Detroit Pistons for their generosity and hospitality.



Project Chick

E. PROVIDENCE - The first graders at Sacred Heart School recently participated in Project Chick. This project helped students learn about bird life cycles. An educator from Casey Farm visited the classroom with everything needed to incubate a clutch of eggs and engaged students in a hands-on presentation about chickens and eggs. While waiting for hatch day, the students participated in activities where they learned new vocabulary and followed the development of the chicks. Twenty-one days later, the students observed the chicks hatch! Six Rhode Island Red chicks and six Dominique chicks were welcomed into the classroom! The children observed and cared for the chicks for one week. A few weeks later, the first graders visited Casey Farm to learn about free-range chickens on one of the oldest farms in Rhode Island. The first graders were very fortunate to witness one of God's miracles!



Help from our Italian Friends

CHELSEA - Now in its 24th year, the IACL held its annual Dinner Dance for St. Louis Center on Sunday, April 7th. This year's event turned out 240 guests, and



the proceeds support the Center's transportation program. According to event Chair Georgia Scappaticci, "We are grateful to the many Club members who attended, as well as all of the people from the Chelsea area that came. We had great support from several new event sponsors, and the business community continued their strong support of our ad book."

The day began with Mass celebrated by SLC CEO, Fr. Enzo Addari, followed by dinner. Guests were able to bid on silent auction items, a mini-bar raffle, and a live auction that raised over \$11,000 to assist with the purchase of a new wheel chair van. The St. Louis Guanella Humanitarian Award was given to Jane Tirey of Our Lady of Good Council Parish in Plymouth for her work with the homeless in Downtown Detroit.



A Knight of Generosity

CHELSEA - On Saturday, April 27th, two Knights of Columbus Councils held fundraisers to benefit the operations of St. Louis Center. They were Irish Hills Council #6223 in Brooklyn, MI, and St. Andrews Parish Council #6674 in Saline, MI. Knights of Columbus Council #6223 held their 22nd Annual Raffle reverse raffle event at the St. Joseph Shrine to a sold-out audience, hoping for a chance to win \$7,000. The reverse raffle is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for this council, and benefits many different council charities, including St. Louis Center. Nearly 400 people were in attendance, along with Fr. Enzo Addari.



Meanwhile, about twenty miles east in Saline, St. Andrews K of C Council #6674 held an event called “Night of the Stars,” where couples came to celebrate the residents of St. Louis Center and held a dinner and silent auction to support the work of the Center and the Servants of Charity, who have been saying Mass there for the past year due to the death of their previous pastor. This event was also well attended, and Fr. Amal represented St. Louis Center during the evening.

Sacrament Preparation

E. PROVIDENCE - Children of Sacred Heart School that are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist gathered with their parents to make preparations. The students make lambs as a symbol for their pure souls after Confession and a banner to be displayed in church at First Holy Communion. It is always a special time for the children and their parents to collaborate on these projects. Holy Communion is now only days away!!!

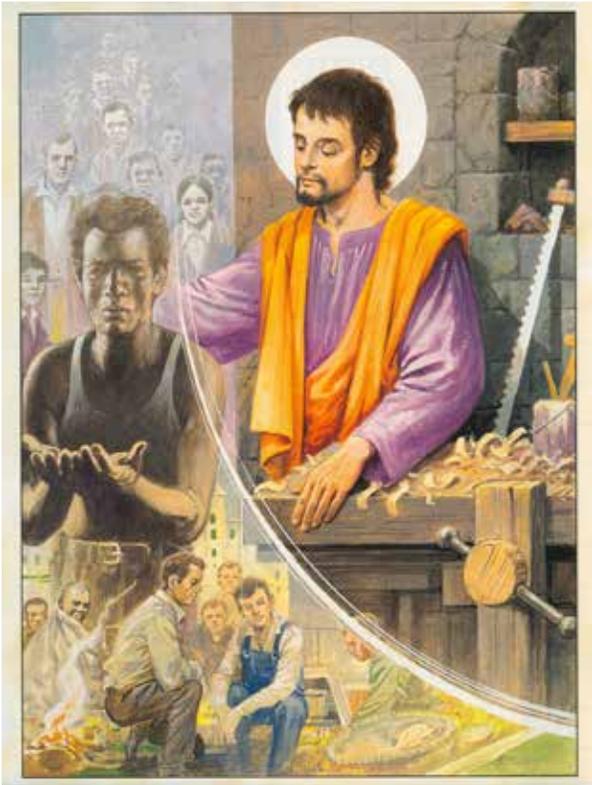


A Day of Advocacy

CHELSEA - St. Louis Center relies on support from the State and Federal governments for a large portion of its funding, and as a result, the 1st SLC Advocacy Day was held at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing on Tuesday, April 30th. Fr. Enzo Addari led a delegation of twenty-five representatives from SLC that included family members, Community Advisory Council members, and staff. The day began with a breakfast buffet hosted by State Senator Peter Lucido (R – 8), who also brought a group of guests into the room and spoke about the importance of families telling their life stories to their State representatives and senators. He was joined by local State Representative Donna Lasinski (D-52), who remains a big supporter of SLC and spoke with her constituents one-on-one about their family issues. Following the breakfast, the group gathered in the Senate Gallery for an introduction to the Michigan Senate by Sen. Lucido, and then family members visited the offices of their legislators to express their concerns about future Federal funding for SLC residents. Everyone felt that the first SLC Advocacy Day was a huge success.



May Calendar of Events



- 1 **St. Joseph the Worker**
- 1-2 **Cuddalore:** Annual Evaluation - St. Joe Seminary
- 1-21 **Cuddalore:** Carnatic Song Class - St. Joe Seminary
- 3 **Sts. Philip and James**
- 4-8 **Cuddalore:** Dance Class - St. Joe Seminary
- 6-12 **Kumbakonam:** Parish Feast
- 10-11 **Cuddalore:** Annual Tour
- 11 **Bangalore:** Reflection for GC, GLM in preparation for renewal of Promises
- Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys - SLC
- Grass Lake:** Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 12 **Cuddalore:** Vacation Begins
- Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day-PUSJ
- 19 **Grass Lake:** St. Joseph Day- PUSJ
- 20-25 **Bangalore:** Annual Retreat for Novices
- 21 **Mary, Mother of the Church**
- 25 **Bangalore:** Renewal Promises by GLM/GC
- 26 **Anniversary of the Ordination of St. Louis Guanella (1866)**
- Kumbakonam:** First Holy Communion
- 27 **The Most Holy Trinity**
- Anniversary of the Birth of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1858)**
- 28 **Anniversary of the Baptism of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1858)**
- 30 **The Ascension of the Lord**

- 31 **Bangalore:** Entrance to Novitiate
- The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- Anniversary of the First Mass of St. Louis Guanella (1866)**

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. Maria Paul, Nov. John Peter M.:** birthday
- 4 **Bro. Vinnarasan:** birthday; **Fr. Arul Raj, Fr. Felicks, Fr. Gnanaraj:** ordination day
- 5 **Fr. Jayasoosai:** birthday
- 8 **Bro. Rajesh Kumar:** birthday; **Fr. Enzo Addari:** ordination day
- 13 **Fr. Stalin, Bro. John Baptist Hoang Luong, Bro. Philip Victor A, Nov. Anthony Samy A:** birthday
- 15 **Fr. David Stawasz, Fr. Pino:** ordination day
- 16 **Fr. David Anburaj, Fr. Arockia Vanathaiyan:** birthday
- 19 **Fr. Ligori, Fr. Visuvasam:** ordination day
- 20 **Bro. Jerome Victor A:** birthday
- 21 **Fr. Felicks, Bro. Melvin Raj S:** birthday
- 22 **Fr. Edal Vinoth Joe:** birthday
- 24 **Fr. Charlton Viray, Fr. Johndass:** birthday; **Fr. Sagayaraj:** feast day
- 26 **Fr. Dennis Weber:** birthday; **Fr. Eduardo Cerbito:** ordination day
- 28 **Bro. Maria Antony Rajan:** birthday
- 30 **Fr. John Kennedy A.:** birthday

Botanical Breakthrough

Peggy Cole, former SLC Development Director, has invited a small group of St. Louis Center residents to explore the benefits of this therapy at her studio, Breakthrough Therapeutic Horticulture on Tuesday evenings. They return home after each encounter beaming with pride in what they have created.



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