The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the living and vivifying source of eternal life, infinite treasure of divinity, and burning furnace of divine love. It inflames our hearts with the ardent love of the Father, pours into our hearts the graces of His source and grants that our hearts may be so closely united to His; so that His holy will may be done in and through us. The Sacred Heart is the bedrock of Divine Providence. This explains why for so many centuries, most facets of our devotion revolve around the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Even the Eucharistic devotion which has become the source and summit of Catholic worship is predicated on the outpouring of the Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Therefore the Heart of Jesus is truly the home or the sanctuary of Love. To certify this truth, the stories and parables of Jesus in the Bible will guide us well.

One of the most compelling revelations of the Heart of God in Scripture is found in ‘THE FATHER OF THE PRODIGAL SON’. The younger son, returning home, approaches the father completely broken; yet the love in the heart of the father sees only that his son is back and his response was fully an explosion of love! The next evident parable is ‘THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN’. It captures in a very vivid way, love in action. The heart of the Samaritan went out to the victim in love, compassion and total identification. The very essence of his ‘altruism’ was precisely the essence of love - to give, give some more and to keep on giving until one is totally empty.

Another confirming event is THE STORY OF THE WOMAN WHO WAS CAUGHT IN ADULTERY and brought before Jesus Christ for “judgment”. It amply demonstrates His revolutionary love. The woman’s accusers could not see beyond the sin. But Jesus Christ, whose heart is the fountain of love saw it differently. His response was a challenge that eventually silenced the accusers. With love comes the knowledge that all are sinners in need of redemption. With love comes the realization that we are all beneficiaries of God’s abundant mercy that needs to be extended to our brothers and sisters.

Next, on seeing the multitude of people by the lakeside, Jesus felt sorry for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. On that occasion His compassion led Him to FEED FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE in the same manner as God had fed the Israelites with manna in the desert. Finally, while HANGING ON THE CROSS, JESUS PRAYED: “Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Jesus’ prayer amply demonstrates the truth that the very nature and essence of Jesus’ heart is love.

Therefore, the heart of Jesus Christ as the home of love cuts across all boundaries - race, culture, gender, class etc, thereby making all into one family with one history and one destiny. It is so total and unconditional that we are reluctant to accept it. For us it is much easier to accept love that is conditional with the hope that love would be reciprocated, but Jesus’ is different. His love precisely demonstrates a unique and revolutionary form of love which is unconditional, unhurtful and descending upon us. Unlike the limited heart of man and woman, the heart of Jesus is limitless in love. The nature of Jesus’ heart is love par excellence. It is not that Jesus has love and Jesus can love but the essence and nature of Jesus’ Heart is Love for ‘God is Love’.

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His love accepts us as we are and completely. We are invited to that LOVE. It sets us free to love as Jesus loves. The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a training in the love of Jesus. As religious ‘the more one is devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the more the person is expected to manifest Christian virtues especially LOVE. Let us strive to become the personified witnesses of Christ’s love for it is the Heart of the World.

Hail, Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Fr. Soosai Rathinam.

I was ordained on December 21, 1967. The preparations, the emotions and the reality of the priesthood lifted me to another planet. I felt like a jumping robot moving from one event to another, one celebration to another. The Christmas holidays made the days even more crowded. The New Year brought me back to the reality and the consciousness of having been ordained a priest and all the duties and responsibilities connected to it. I was so happy. I felt so blessed and tried to imagine my future life, duties and assignments. My parents and relatives treated me like an extraterrestrial. The celebrations were over and I was prepared to report to my superior. I was still preparing when I got a letter from my superior. Thirty five words told me to report to the Mother House and prepare myself to move to the United States as soon as possible. I could not believe it! What happened to my dreams, my teaching certificates? My degrees, my languages! I did not know a word of English as opposed to Italian, French and Spanish. These are not my fathers, they are my torturers! Why are they punishing me? What happened to charity, compassion, human understanding? These were my feelings: anger, discouragement and a sense of emptiness.

And so, incapable of understanding my emptiness, I arrived in the United States. I knew no one. I felt lonely and isolated. And where was God in my suffering? In Philadelphia I had the grace to meet Bishop Sheen. I remember his words: ‘I am glad you are not spiritually comatose. It is normal to question and to doubt when you are hurting and feeling vulnerable. You have to look deeper inside, seek out the place of faith in your heart and re-examine the promises of your ordination and the vows of your religious life. God does not promise you will never suffer; life is joy and sorrow. However God does promise to remain with you in your suffering. Bishop Sheen asked me to reconnect that invisible cord that bonded me to God. I soon found my connection with God. My job was to take care of forty children with intellectual and physical disabilities. They quickly understood that I needed more help than they did. They kindly and gently told me where everything was located. They taught me the English words of items and things. They showed how things were done and what my job was. They became the greatest gift God gave me. I loved them like they were my children. They stopped calling me ‘Father’ but Joe, and I loved it. I learned in this way that God stays with us even when the road gets rocky. When you reach those dark and rough places, doubt can still creep in. God doesn’t abandon us. If we remain open and allow God to enter our pain, we can experience God’s compassionate presence. God touches us through other people.

As I sat with Bishop Sheen, crying and distraught, he suddenly got up from his chair, dropped to one knee in front of me, and just put his arms around me. I held on tightly. That comfort, that healing touch of love, was just what I needed.

I am so grateful to Bishop Sheen and the special children who continued to show me their love. In time I also learned that their love was God’s love. Fifty years later I am so grateful and happy for giving all my life caring for special children. They were God’s messengers who taught me to love and how to love by understanding that God is love and wants us to exchange this love with Him.

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June Calendar of Fr. Provincial

4 Chennai: Inaugural Mass - DGMS
6-7 Chennai: Meeting with Deacons
8 Thennur: Marriage of Fr. Arockiaraj’s Sister
9 Dindigul: Blessing of New Rectory
17 Thirumullaivoil: Parish Feast Day Mass
18-26 Vietnam Visit
26-July 8 Philippines Visit

Where is God in my Suffering?
By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
German Guanellians as Solidarity Globetrotters

During the Marian Month of May both Guanellian entities in the Black Forest have been very active. Fr. Rocky accompanied a group of Italian pilgrims to Fatima. Fr. Wieslaw went for the annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes. Confreres of the Italian Mission have been busy preparing children for First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage. On June 2nd subsidiary Bishop Gerber will celebrate the confirmation of many youth of our district. Guanellian Alumni of Naro are organizing a solemn feast and procession of St. Calogero, patron of Naro, through the streets of Pforzheim mid-June.

The other half of the Procura has been busy raising funds and refreshing contacts with our best donors: Missio, Munich; Kindermission, Aachen; the Bishop’s office, Freiburg; and the charitable nuns of the Pious Union in the Black Forest.

New projects from the Philippines have been submitted and partially funded. The Good Samaritan Pharmacy has received sufficient donations to purchase life-saving medicine for a long time. The astonishing thing is that even agnostic friends of Guanella Works have opened their pockets. New sources of charity have become members of the GLM, increasing the circle among professional and influential personalities from the Italian community.

We are following the development of missions in West Africa, encouraging confreres to send well documented projects for submission to agencies in Germany. As The most recent in Africa is the Guanellian shelter in Mbeya, West Tanzania. There is an urgent need of sufficient drinking water for the disabled communities as well as for the neighboring Christian villages. We’ll apply for support at Missio, Munich. We are closely connected since we ‘adopted’ a young boy, whom Fr. Furaha has given my first name. Little Gero is a sunny disabled boy, who has become in Germany the symbol of Guanellian loving attention toward God’s neglected children in Africa and beyond.

The last coordinated activity is with the German Pious Union and the establishment of a branch of the St. Josef Confraternity in Indore/Madhya Pradesh. Mother General Simone has obtained approval of Bishop Chacko Thottumarical, the local bishop. The German Procure plans to submit the project to the Pious Union in Rome for Canonical approval. We hope that this will foster practical cooperation among Guanellians with the efforts of the Daughters of St. Josef in South India to increase the veneration of the Holy Patriarch, great St. Josef, and promote the blessed apostolate for the salvation of the suffering and dying around the world. This brilliant inspiration of our Founder should become an imperative act of all Guanellians practicing his maxim, “The worry for the dying of this day is an important duty of true Christian love toward our neighbor.”

May the Holy Spirit this Pentecost inflame our hearts and turn our thoughts to be attentive to the poor.

Gero Lombardo, German Guanellian Procure
Parish Feast

KUMBAKONAM - Guanella Nagar Parish joyfully celebrated the parish feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence beginning on May 8th with new flag hoisting by Dr. Msgr. A. Amirthasamy, Vicar General, Kumbakonam, celebrated solemn Mass and blessed the new statue of Our Lady of Divine Providence from Paraguay.

During six days of the novena, the Rosary was prayed, Confessions were heard and Holy Mass was celebrated by different religious priests from around the diocese of Kumbakonam.

The culmination of the celebration was on May 13th. Most Rev. F. Antonisamy, D. D., S.T.L., Bishop of Kumbakonam, presided over the High Mass and blessed the new car. The car, carrying the statue of Our Lady of Divine Providence processed through the streets of the substations, Perumpandi, Jebamalipuram, Autonagar, St. Sebastin Church, Chinnamalkallari, and Santhanalpuram. Fr. A. John Bosco gave the final blessing and kept Our Lady of Divine Providence statue in the Church. On the following day, Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC, Provincial Superior celebrated the feast day Mass and lowered the flag to close the celebration.

Joy of Renewal

CHENNAI - On May 26th, for the occasion of the 151st Ordination Anniversary of St. Guanella, 25 of our temporary confreres joyfully renewed their vows by pronouncing ‘Yes’ to the Lord to keep vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, presided over Holy Mass and received the vows of the confreres. In his homily, he focused on the faithfulness of the confreres to the Congregation. He stressed that faithfulness is one of the important aspects of living a Guanellian religious life. On behalf of the brothers and the community, DGMS Superior Rev. Fr. Samson thanked God and the Provincial Superior with his grateful heart. To make the celebration more grand, Rev. Fr. Gnanaraj, GPN community Superior, Fr. John Peter and Fr. Anil and the DGMS community fathers, con-celebrated with Fr. Soosai.

Entrance into Novitiate

BANGALORE - No one can deny God’s call since His love is amazing forever. On May 30th amidst Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, seven brothers entered the Novitiate. They all come from various backgrounds, experiences and expectations just for the Love of Christ. It is a demanding world and finding true vocations is a big challenge today. The Novices had a Benediction followed by the Evening Prayer where they consecrated themselves to Mary our Mother. The official entrance into the Novitiate was initiated by Fr. Soosai who handed over their charge and canonical guidance to the Novice Master, Fr. Adaikalam. The entire Guanellian family is praying for these young brothers.

How great is our Lord for He listened to our prayers, saw our hard work and granted us a good harvest of laborers for His vineyard. We wish all the best for the new novices in the school of holiness.

To Be His Witnesses

BANGALORE - On May 31st, the feast of “The Visitation of Mother Mary,” the anniversary when our Founder celebrated his first Holy Mass in 1866, six of our Novices successfully completed their novitiate and made their first Religious profession, saying ‘yes’ to the call of the Lord ‘to be His witnesses.’ The Brothers looked like angels in their Cassocks. The Congregation and especially Fr. Adaikalam, who led the Brothers throughout the year of Novitiate giving them the experience of the Institute and forming them to be beautiful Flowers offered to God. Bro. At Guanella Preethi Nivas holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Soosai Rathinam. His Councilors Fr. Kulandai and Fr. Visuvasam; Superior and Rector of GPN, Fr. Gnanaraj;
Novice Master, Fr. Adaikalam and other Guanellian Fathers concelebrated. During his homily, Fr. Rathinam told the Brothers they must always look forward to the driving force in the religious life and walk toward the destined end. He added, during the time of St. Guanella, they did not have big celebrations, in fact he recalled how after the good children fell asleep they quietly made their vows. The parents of the brothers were acknowledged and thanked by Fr. Rathinam for having encouraged their children to say ‘yes’ to the Divine call. The Community was vibrant with joy and happiness to have this celebration and welcoming the new precious gifts.

**Laity Called to Guanellian Mission**

**BANGALORE** - It was the dream of our Founder to have the laity participate in the Guanellian mission and spread charity in the world. From the time we started the Guanellian Lay Movement in Bangalore, we have seen how the laity has shown interest in growing in the mission started by our Founder. Many were introduced to the Congregation through fathers, brothers, sisters and friends. Today they stand with the Guanellian Family as one with a true spirit, participating in our celebrations and in our challenging moments. For over six years now, we have seen the spirit and enthusiasm with which the laity has embraced the mission, and they have not hesitated to step forward in their commitment. Eight members have moved from the GLM to become the first eight Guanellian Cooperators in India. We started as a small group but based on the numbers, we truly believe that the Spirit of the Lord is moving through them.

A recollection was organized and led by Fr. Ligory, who prepared the members and strengthened them with his talk. This was the preparation for the Guanellian Cooperators to renew their promise, the Guanellian Lay Movement members who were to renew and the many that were making their first pledge. The members were formed by Fr. Adaikalam, who nourished them spiritually and guided them in the Guanellian spirit. The members take up their responsibilities and participate in the planned activities.

May 31st is a very important day for the Congregation, wherein our Founder celebrated his first holy mass at Prosto. On this day, eight GC renewed their promise and seventeen GLM members made their pledge. The numbers for the GLM members who have made their pledge has moved from 10 to 17. This is only a reflection on how well the flock has kept together and formed. The credit goes to Fr. Adaikalam, Fr. Gnanaraj, Fr. Visuvasam and above all Fr. Soosai Rathinam, who has encouraged the participation of the laity. A divine spirit was in our members while saying ‘yes’ to the call and continuing their journey as Guanellians. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Soosai Rathinam along with his Councilors and other Fathers from the Guanellian Community. In his homily, Fr. Rathinam appreciated the commitment of the laity who have sacrificed so many things and remained committed. He said this was the vision of our Founder and it’s a joy to see how things are going in India. It was great joy for the Cooperators when Fr. Provincial released the English version of the ‘General Statutes’ of the Guanellian cooperators officially. It was also an overwhelming joy to have been part of the First Profession of our Brothers when we made our commitment. Now the Laity can spread throughout the world like yeast and share the Guanellian spirit, which is to provide special love to the one who says, ‘I have no one’.
In the Month of Flowers

MANILA - Flores De Mayo, which means “flowers of May,” was celebrated by the Filipinos throughout the month of May in honor of and gratitude for the Virgin Mary. The Servants of Charity and San Isidro Labrador Parish offered this annual program for the children of Pantanco, San Agustin, Roque and the ‘good children’ from Guanella Center and Guanella Home. The purpose is to emphasize the Catechism and educate them about celebrating the month of May in honor of Mary. For the first time, the San Isidro Labrador Parish conducted a quiz bee which focused on topics in the Bible, All of the children participated. May 26th was the culmination of the Flores De Mayo celebrations, beginning with a question period by the seminarians. They quizzed the children on their knowledge of Flores De Mayo. Prizes were given to those children who were able to answer the questions. A series of presentations given by the children who participated in the Flores De Mayo program brought the month to a close.

Strengthening Fraternal Bonds

MANILA - May 23rd-26th the seminarians from Legazpi and Quezon City shared time together. The primary purpose of the event was for the seminarians to develop a strong fraternity towards the Guanellian mission. The seminarians were given talks by Bro. Mauro, SdC, who presented some of the Guanellian Mission Principles, and Sr. Marivic, CM, who talked about discipleship. Team-building activities were conducted by Fr. Ronnie preceded by a fraternal night which allowed the seminarians to show off their talents and skills. Tita Alice and Tito Jun went with the seminarians to Batangas for a relaxing getaway. A tree-planting was the final activity that symbolizes the relationship between the two communities that will continue to grow.

Vows Renewed

MANILA - Three Guanellian brothers renewed their vows on May 26th. The ceremony was integrated into Mass at Guanella Hall and witnessed by the whole seminary community, including the Guanellian Sisters. The Holy Mass was presided by Fr. Charlton and concelebrated by Fr. Battista, Fr. Dong, Fr. Charles, Fr. Loyola and Fr. Ronnie. Fr. Charlton, Provincial Vice-superior of the Divine Providence Province, received the vows of Brothers Alfie, Arun David and Christian. Fr. Charlton focused his homily on the three brothers and offered special words to them, and instructed them to be faithful to their vows.

Brother Graduates

MANILA - The Servants of Charity are grateful to the Lord of the harvest for guiding Br. Alfie Matulac, SdC, throughout his theological studies. On Saturday, May 27th, he received two diplomas, a Bachelors Degree in Sacred Theology and a Masters in Systematic Theology. His stay at the Recoletos School of Theology, an affiliate of the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, Manila helped him deepen his faith and conviction to promote the Kingdom of God among the poor in the footsteps of St. Guanella. The Guanellian Community also extended their joys for Br. Arun David and Br. Christian Magdaong for participating in the RST academy awards 2017.
First Holy Communion
E. PROVIDENCE - The second grade students of Sacred Heart School had the culmination of their year-long preparation for Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7th. It is a parish tradition for the children to experience the miracle of transubstantiation on the altar up close to Fr. Silvio. This year there was a special priest present to concelebrate the Mass, Fr. Jeremy Rodrigues, uncle of one of the first communicants. At the same celebration the children in their First Communion attire crowned the Blessed Mother statue following the tradition of the Catholic Church.

Give a Little Heart and Sole
CHELSEA - This year the Chelsea community headed out to the local high school for the ”Heart and Sole” race, a fundraiser for the St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Behavioral Health Services Department, on Saturday, May 20th. This year’s event is part of Michigan Fitness Foundation’s 2017 Race Series Championship and attracts hundreds of participants including many St. Louis Center residents. There are races for every skill level, including the 2K walk completed by the residents and their caregivers. Upon crossing the finish line, each participant is presented with a medal in gratitude to their commitment to wellness. SLC participants had a great time both competing and cheering on other racers.

Spring Concert
E. PROVIDENCE - Under the direction of the Sacred Heart School music teacher, Paul Desrosiers, the school presented its 10th Annual Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 23rd. To the delight of the parents and parishioners, student band and choir performed in the church.

Ascension Day
E. PROVIDENCE - To celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday, May 25th, the students of Sacred Heart School planned a May Crowning and special Mass. The tradition is to crown a statue outdoors, but this year the weather did not cooperate. Mass and the Crowning were held inside. Fr. Franklin Michael, SdC, who was visiting the Rhode Island Community assisted Fr. Silvio at the school Mass.

Victory Day
CHELSEA - Rain could not keep the Eastern Michigan University football team from hosting its fourth annual EMU Victory Day, Thursday, May 25, as the Eagles hosted more than 140 persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Student-athletes, as well as the coaching staff, took part in an exciting event of football related activities inside EMU’s Indoor Practice Facility in Ypsilanti, MI.

The day began as kids walked into the facility through a tunnel consisting of EMU football players and the cheer team. Following the national anthem, EMU Head Football Coach Chris Creighton joined participants for a welcome speech and a ceremonial coin toss to officially begin the football activities. The participants went through individual drills and others took the field to compete in a game-like setting. On the drills side, stations consisted of throwing nets, agility bags, kicking, and much more. Creighton and the team presented each child with a medal before wrapping up the day by singing the EMU fight song. After singing alongside the athletes and cheerleaders, everyone involved congregated for a group photo before concluding the festivities with a luncheon inside the Convocation Center.
Formation of the Formator

HO CHI MINH CITY - Fr. Sahayaraj, SdC, from the Legazpi community in the Philippines, visited for a month to experience the Vietnamese culture. He wanted to understand the culture more since he will be the Novice Master for the six Vietnamese students in Legazpi beginning in July 2017. During his stay, he visited the families of some of the students. Before his departure for Manila on May 1st the Vietnam community went on a picnic to a nearby river. It was a wonderful day of relaxation and fraternity.

Next Step of Journey Begins

HO CHI MINH CITY - On May 23rd two students, Trong and Toan, who completed two years of priestly formation in Vietnam, left for the Philippines to continue their studies. Both Trong and Toan were well prepared in English and spiritual formation. They will spend two years in the Philippines for postulancy and Novitiate. Please pray for them to have a wonderful Guanellian experience in the Philippines and be well-trained as workers for the Lord's harvest.

Cause for Celebration

HO CHI MINH CITY - On May 27th Br. Khiet and Br. Hoang renewed their religious vows. Fr. Anthony Quyen, SVD, was invited to preside over the Mass. He preached a good, inspirational homily. Fr. Felicks, the house in-charge, received their vows. Two local religious sisters were also present during the Holy Mass. After Mass, a beautiful dinner was shared in honor of the momentous occasion.
June Calendar of Events

11 The Most Holy Trinity
Bangalore: Guanellian Lay Movement and Cooperators Meeting

12 Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day - PUSJ

13 Our Lady of Fatima
Chelsea: Vocational Retreat for Boys - SLC
Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group

13-14 Manila: Vocation Seminar

18 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Grass Lake: St. Joseph Day - PUSJ

20 Pforzheim: St. Calogero Feast Day Celebration

21 Anniversary of the Death of Alexander Mazzucchi (1890)

23 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Chelsea: Guanellian Cooperators Renewal of Promises - SLC

24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Chelsea: Paesano's Dinner to Benefit - SLC

25 Chelsea: Golf & Glory Outing to Benefit - SLC

27 Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Bacclarini (1935)

29 Sts. Peter and Paul