

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



“Counting your Blessings, March with an Optimistic Attitude”

“LIFE” is explained as **Love In Full Experience**. It’s an opportune time to retrospect and look back at the attitudes which guided our life journey in 2017 in order to approach 2018 with an optimistic attitude. The world in 2017 encountered various tragedies like *hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, other natural disasters in Tamil Nadu (OCKHI Storm) at Kanyakumari district and faced challenges in the present political scenario (RK Nagar election)*. This must not hinder our progress and let our attitude falter. Rather we must march forward at the right altitude and with a positive attitude. When we focus on the tragedies and disasters we cannot get in line with our journey of life as happy and joyful human beings on earth. Therefore, this New Year is an invitation to each of us to count the blessings of 2017 by being grateful to God in the words of St. Paul, *‘in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus’* (1Thes 5,18) and welcome the New Year with vigour, hope, courage and strength. Once we start appreciating all the blessings bestowed by God, our attitude changes, we stop complaining and finally we become thankful,

which produces Joy.

Life completely depends on our attitude. *Why depend on our attitude? From where does our attitude arise?* In this New Year I intend to focus on our attitude because the present scenario is all about instant news through TV, computer, network, mobile phones, tablets and so on. We hear bad news much more quickly. We are bombarded with negative information from every direction and there is a possibility of slipping into an emotional mood. We will easily be worried about the situation of the country and society; politically and economically but what change will we see personally? During difficult times, each of us likes to choose the better and have a positive outlook. Having encountered various disasters and changes in the past, are we going to face the upcoming year with gloom and doom? Are we going to feel that nothing will work out for us? When we are deep into our problems and unable to find solutions we will sink into discouragement. To avoid this ill feeling and overcome it we need to be prepared with an attitude adjustment called optimism.

“OPTIMISM” means the confidence to transform the worst into the best. It is like the seed that has fallen from the beak of the bird, which does not complain rather begins to grow into a big tree that gives shade and shelter to many. At the closure of 2017, it is high time to check how optimistic we are in our daily life. Do we go on cursing people and situations or do we try to make the best out of every event that happens in life? In line with this thought I remember an Ancient African proverb, *“even in hell there is a little corner known as heaven.”* It means that in difficult times we need to

January 2018

Volume 11 Number 1



“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1Thes 5,18

march with a positive attitude so that we can receive blessings for ourselves and others. Therefore I would like to bring to your attention that attitude has a drastic impact on life (both positive and negative attitudes). What do we choose: Positive or Negative? **Positive** – will lead to success, make us humble in our dealings, develop faith in God & others, become content with what we have and finally we become thankful personalities. **Negative** – will lead to unhappiness, poor relationships, difficulty at work and ultimately poor health.

Our attitude arises from within not from external circumstances/people. Let’s choose our attitude by being mindful of the blessings we have received: life, parents, kith and kin,

INSIDE:

Provincial	2
Germany	3
India	4-6
Philippines	6-7
Solomon Islands	8
United States	9
Vietnam	10
Calendar	11

relatives, friends, vocation to married and religious life and good health. We shall learn this choosing of the right and positive attitude from our Holy Founder, St. Louis Guanella, who was a merciful father because of his gratefulness for everything. He possessed the special power of healing souls, of dispelling their difficulties without ever recalling them. He was generous in forgiving his adversaries and he implied the very motto 'Mercy more than justice' all through his life where he experienced love in full and transmitted to the very needy people of his time. Hence, like our founder and

other great personalities let's keep the mercifulness at the center and dwell with a positive outlook, moving forward with an optimistic attitude to become successful in 2018. May I wish you all an optimistic and a prosperous New Year. May God reward you with more blessings.

Fr. Soosai Rathinam

January Calendar of Fr. Provincial

4-26 Solomon Islands Visit

Hypocrisy Hurts the Church

By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

If you wish not to damage the Church and others, be truthful and never hypocritical. Pope Francis gave this recommendation during his daily morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta a couple of weeks ago, while speaking to a group of pilgrims from the United States. He warned that hypocrisy isn't the language of Jesus, nor of Christianity. Drawing inspiration from the Gospel, where some Pharisees and Herodians tried to ensnare Jesus in his speech, the Holy Father observed: "The hypocrite always uses language to flatter."

Jesus, Pope Francis reminded, uses the word "hypocrite" often to describe the doctors of the law, because, as their title illustrates, they claim to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case, they give opinions and issue judgments, but are false.

Hypocrites, the Holy Father warned, always begin with adulation, exaggerating the truth, feeding into one's vanity. However, Pope Francis underscored, Jesus makes us see reality which is the opposite of hypocrisy and ideology. Pope Francis underscored that, as we see with the doctors of the law in the Gospel, flattery is triggered by bad intentions.

The Holy Father warned that they had put Jesus to the test, flattering him first and then asking him a question with the intention of making him err, namely that: "is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Pope Francis stresses that the hypocrite is two-faced, but Jesus knew their hypocrisy. Jesus always responds to hypocrites and ideologists with reality: everything else is either hypocrisy or ideology. In this case Jesus said:

"bring me a coin", and He answered with the wisdom of the Lord: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God." The reality was that the coin carried the image of Caesar.



The language of hypocrisy, Pope Francis also said, is the language of deceit, the same language the serpent used with Eve. While it starts with flattery, it ends up destroying people. It tears to pieces the personality and the soul of a person. It destroys communities, Pope Francis stated. Warning all Christians who at times are hypocritical, Pope Francis stressed how problematic this sin is for the Church. The hypocrite is capable of destroying a community. While speaking gently, he ruinously judges a person. He is a killer, Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis concluded, giving two pieces of advice: Respond to flattery only with truth, and respond to ideology only with reality and prayer. Pope Francis concludes his talk: "Let us ask the Lord to guard us from this vice, to help us be truthful, and if this is not possible to keep silent, don't ever be a hypocrite."

New Year, New Paths of Charity

Retrospectively, 2017 was a very blessed year, filled with small and large providential gifts. In fact, at the end of the year Holy Providence had touched many hearts and opened many plentiful pockets. The sowing began September 16 but the harvest was completed in December 2017. Most of the projects benefit the following Divine Providence Province entities:

*A new award from Missio, Munich went to Good Samaritan Pharmacy, Manila, just months after they accepted a program to educate parents of the 'good children' there. This new donation will purchase life-saving medicine for the Quezon City Inferno.

*Our contact with the Archdiocese of Freiburg reaped a positive award in December. World Church caputular, Dr. Peter Birkhofer, accepted our request to give financial support for the 26 Indian and four Filipino Theology Students. The generous donation was dispersed to the respective Major Seminaries through DDP treasurer, Fr. Rinaldo.

*Constant precious contact with the German Pious Union has secured small, continous donations for the Manila Pharmacy and for the new charity shelter at Iwindi, Tanzania. Their Mass intentions helped our confreres there to survive the 'Guanellian Spartanity.' For this new entity in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro we have applied for a donation from Missio, Munich to build a medical center for 300 disabled persons.

This project may receive an award as soon as the beginning of February 2018

*Since our visit to the German Caritas Office at Pforzheim with Delegate Fr. Luigi in September we have been working on another

urgent Project at Noro, Solomon Islands. With an interesting flyer for fundraising among supporters in our confederate State Bad-Württ, Director Lemke initiated press conferences. Both German Guanellian entities are also seeking to fund a multi-purpose hall at Noro. This campaign will continue through the end of January 2018. We hope that the targeted sum will be collected by then.



† Bro. Mauro and seminarian with poor of the Philippines.

*Guanellian Caritas also tried to help our Guanellian Sisters in Iasi, Romania in their request of financial support to purchase a Minibus, for urgently needed transportation for the disabled, elderly and students. The project was accepted by the Bavarian Solidarity Agency Renovabis in Eastern Europe just days before Christmas. This was somewhat of a thankful gesture to them, because 2 years ago they accomodated the first Indian confreres and built the first Guanellian seminary in Eastern Europe.

Last but not least our Procure is already working on 2018 projects. The most important are the rebuilding of the Cuddalore Church and a new project for Manila. Brother Mauro has prepared a project for self sufficiency through his Piggery Project near the Good Children's Residence there.

It should provide enough food for residents and enough to create an income. Also from the Philippines Fr. Viray is involving the Procura to fund a new shelter of charity in Northern Mindanao.

We are open to all requests from the

Guanellian Missionary World, like those recently received from Mexico and Guatemala. We invest patient and silent work for the reactivation of our old contact with another solidarity agency: Kindermission, Aachen which for a decade was the other important solidarity agency involved in projects in Legapzi, Philippines; RD Congo and Mexico. Each received an Ambulance that operates 24 hours daily for at-risk girls and boys or AIDs infected youth; and an irrigation system for disabled kids in Bateké, RD Congo. Exactly like Fr. Guanella did in Nuova Olonia, rehabilitation of the disabled through manual work, in his first pioneering endeavor.

In this New Year we should practice the warnings of Pope Francis to make 2018 an 'active year' as a Church and Community en route.

May the Lord through the intercession of our Lady of Providence help us always be ready to focus our efforts and listen to the whispers of our unknown, poor sisters and brothers. Have a blessed and graceful 2018.

Gero Lombardo, German Guanellian Procure

World Special People Day

BANGALORE - On December 2nd the Guanellians celebrated World Special People's Day in Bangalore. The celebration began with a solemn Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore and concelebrated by many priests. World Special People's Day is one of the biggest and most awaited events celebrated every year at Guanella Preethi Nivas. About 2000 people, including 1,350 good children from 40 institutes around Bangalore participated and the rest were our benefactors, friends, Guanellian Cooperators and GLM members. For the past 11 years the Guanellians used this day to teach and exhibit to everyone how to accept, love and celebrate the gifts of these beloved children of God and how they are favorable to God. They were the heroes and heroines of the Day. This year 190 volunteers worked selflessly for the success of this event and they are deeply touched by our mission. Guanellian Lay Movement members were happy to collaborate closely for the success of this event and set a good example for all attendees. The good children gave beautiful performances, they were entertained, honored, fed with nutritious food and given gifts. The Archbishop congratulated and thanked the Guanellians for their marvellous service to the deserving children of God.



Recognition for 10 Successful Years

THALAVADI - For World Special People's Day all the institutions from the Erode District, including Nazareth Illam, were invited to attend the program organized by DDRWO of Erode. Mr. Prabhakaran, collector, and MLA's of east and west constitution of Erode district were the guests for the day. In the cultural events many differently-abled people showcased their talents, one of our residents performed a beautiful dance on



stage. It was a joyful moment for Nazareth Illam and the Congregation to receive the best institution award with a certificate and a trophy from Mr. Prabhakaran. Fr. Ligory, Community Superior, was awarded for rendering best service for the people. It is apparent that everyone appreciated our institution and our service.

Golden Bliss

BANGALORE - Guanella Preethi Nivas was filled with joy December 5th by the visit of Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Provincial Treasurer. The occasion was the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, a delight and festival to all. The whole community took endeavours to solemnise and congratulate him.



Children offered their felicitation in the form of flowers, dancing, singing and party games. All gathered to thank God for His mercies to Fr. Joe and his glorious jubilee of 50 years, which is 18,250 days or 438,000 hours. More than this we admired his dedication to the congregation for the growth of our mission in USA which will be historically unforgettable. Fr. Joe was very happy to share his experiences with the Evening school children, giving them encouragement for their futures. At the end children were given sweets and they were sent safely home.

When do you Celebrate?

CHENNAI - December is a special month for all, especially the Guanellian family, when we bring all our special children together to make them feel loved and respected in society. The people of the parishes we serve on weekends ask us about the celebration for Differently-abled day, because they know it is a traditional feast celebrated by the Guanellian family. On December 10th, Don Guanella Major Seminary held the event. It was a time of grace for all who attended and were involved in the program. The day began spiritually with Mass. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC, Provincial Superior was the celebrant and he delivered a thoughtful

homily, explaining the importance of the special children in and around us. He also quoted Pope Francis when he commemorated a day for the Special Children. Many dignitaries from different Government departments of Tamilnadu were present. Each of them had a chance to



address the gathering, saying it is a challenging and awesome ministry that the Guanellian fathers are doing. They thoroughly enjoyed the

celebration. The program continued with the special children displaying their talents: speeches, songs and performances. We thank God for the support and choicest blessings He showers on the Guanellian family. The children were fed and gifts distributed before they went home.

Guanellian Family Triple Celebration

BANGALORE - Guanella Preethi Nivas celebrated suppose Christmas, Family Day and the birthday of our Founder on December 19th. GPN was opened to all the GC, GLM, Youth, Sisters, beneficiaries, staff, and all well wishers for the occasion. It was an event to rekindle the spirit of St. Guanella and evangelize the Charism in his footsteps. The event began with Solemn Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Jegan. Following this spiritual

nourishment, physical nourishment was provided in the form of cultural programs and a delicious meal. Gifts were given to the staff, GC, GLM and youth as tokens of the love of St. Guanella.



Celebrating the Birth of a Saint

CUDDALORE - On December 19th, our Founder's 175th birthday, and to honor his holy birth, life and his charitable patrimony St. Joseph's Seminary, Don Guanella Boys Home, Sahaya Matha Parish, Divine

Providence Convent, Guanellian Lay Movement and all the beneficiaries joined as one family to celebrate. The celebration included solemn Mass, during which three GLM members made their promise and became Guanellian Cooperators, cultural performances, gift sharing and an Agape meal. It was a time of revitalizing the spirit, mission and vision of St. Louis Guanella.



Visit of School Students

THALAVADI - A group of students from St. John De Britto School, Sathy, brought the Christmas message to our residence on a recent visit. Around 80 students of 6th-10th standard prepared a cultural program to bring



the Christmas message alive for our residents. They enjoyed the dancing and singing, helping them to forget the worries, anxiety and trauma of their daily lives. It was also a good chance for the young students to learn the life situation of the patients and gain knowledge of their lives. This visit made an impact on them and inspired St. Joseph's Matriculation School, Sathy, to also come for a visit, providing much needed rations and basic necessities for the residents. They are now able to give witness to the ministry.

Jesus is Born in the Poor

CHENNAI - Suppose Christmas was celebrated with the Don Guanella Evening School students December 22nd. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior was the guest of honor. He delivered the message that



sharing gives true joy and everlasting happiness like Santa Claus (St. Nicholas). Every student was given a blanket for a Christmas gift. The celebration was grand and enjoyable with colorful dances and drama performances by the students. The celebration concluded with the exchange of gifts with 'chrisma christi friends.'

Seminary Celebrates Christmas

CUDDALORE - St. Joseph's Seminary celebrated Christmas in a grand and meaningful manner for the evening school children. The program began on a spiritual note and also included singing, dancing,



party games, gift-sharing and competitive programs. Fr. Francis Assisi, the chief guest, was very happy and amazed by the little works and gifts of charity rendered to the poor children. A thought provoking message about Christmas and New Year was given by Fr. Arockia Raj. His motivation and encouragement made the participants feel more energized and strengthened.

Catholics Celebrate Disabilities

LEGAZPI - The holidays were here again which made our children and youth with special needs rejoice when they rendered a musical skit, sang carols and played their musical instruments during the program during



our observance of National Catholic Disability Day December 3rd held at Harong Kan Sagrada Familia. They not only enjoyed mingling with other persons with disabilities from different Special Education Centers in Legazpi City, but they were also grateful for the goodies given as gifts from generous benefactors. It was worth the effort of the many days of practices in order to come up with a meaningful and enjoyable stage presentation. Indeed it was applauded and appreciated.



100 Years of Fatima

LEGAZPI - Throughout history there have been supernatural apparitions and signs that go to the heart of human events. The message of Fatima is still lively evidence to the world of an urgent call to conversion and penance to draw us to the heart of the Gospel. On December 6th, the Diocesan Commission on Youth and World Apostolate of Fatima organized a show named FATIMA@100 for the benefit of the Diocesan Commission on Youth – Legazpi. The show recounted the apparitions of Fatima and helped residents, novices and priests gain a universal understanding of the event. Furthermore, the event helped to strengthen and empower our belief in the power of the Rosary and in the warning of Our Lady's message to the world.

Advent Preparations

LEGAZPI - An Advent Recollection, General Assembly and Christmas Party was held at St. Agnes Academy for all religious communities in the Legazpi Diocese. Most Rev. Monsignor Weng started the recollection by sharing the meaning of the Advent season. He summarized and addressed the readings and Gospels during Advent. Mass was the next activity, presided by the Most Rev. Joel. Z. Baylon, D.D. After that, every member finalized the regulations and the name of the new organization. At the end of the event, everyone exchanged gifts with one another.

Children Celebrate Christmas



LEGAZPI - The jubilation continued for several days when the Annual STEP Christmas Party was celebrated with the families of our students. The traditional “Nativity-Tableau” performed by the “good children” solemnly opened the program of the day. At the same time, the Physical Therapy department celebrated their Christmas Party with patients who had been coming for treatment. Soon the merrymaking began with Christmas songs, dances and games to give life to everyone. There was never a dull moment, although there was stormy weather outside. The simple joys of gift giving filled everyone’s hearts with gratitude for the coming of the Lord Jesus who is the source of all joys and hopes.

Harong Kan Sagrada Celebrates Staff



LEGAZPI - On December 19th the Servants of Charity celebrated Christmas and the end of 2017 in the presence of Fr. Dong, SdC, Fr. David, SdC, and Fr. Sagayaraj, SdC, opened a year-end

Christmas Party to give thanks to the staffs who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community. Practically, gifts could not be absent from the party because they are a sign of bringing good luck and joy to others.

More than a Party

LEGAZPI - As the fruit of a long period of preparation, on December 22nd, the novices helped bring a little joy to the children of Purok 6, with a Christmas Party at the Pavilion of Harong Kan Sagrada Familia. To start the party, Fr. David, SdC, celebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Sagayaraj SdC, in the presence of benefactors and friends. We gathered the poor children of Purok 6 to organize them to play games, dance, sing and give them a place to have a party. The children were overwhelmed with happiness and joy, carrying gifts in their hands. We were delighted to organize this event to let them know that God never abandons them.



Carollers of Noro

SOLOMON ISLANDS - The word carol actually means dance or song of praise and joy. The idea of Christians carolling brings to mind jolly bands of Church-goers, dressed in shawls and hats, going door-to-door, also known as wassailing, an old Norse term to spread the spirit of Christmas.

In this spirit-filled tradition, the carollers of St. Eusebius Parish, consisting of youth, catechists, children and two Guanellian Fathers, visited 197 families of Noro, Canaan, Rawaki, Malluke and Munda Islands from December 10th-17th. All the families were overwhelmed with joy to receive the Christmas blessing and Father Christmas (Santa Claus) who accompanied the Carollers merry making with his Jingle bell dance. The presence and fortification of God was felt through the fine weather and gave Him thanks for the warm welcome by other denominations like Anglican and United Church families to sing and bless their houses too.



Feast of St. Stephen

SOLOMON ISLANDS - The feast day of St. Stephen, the first martyr and patron of Sulumoni Christian Community on Kolombangara Island, was celebrated on December 26th. The simple chapel was decorated and the liturgy was well prepared by the community members. The Guanellian Fathers from Noro Parish travelled 45 minutes by the Parish boat on the open sea and celebrated the feast day Mass for about 55 people, 7 families from Sulumoni and 5 families from Nugusu Village participated and received the feast day and Christmas special blessings. ←



Christmas at St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - The residents of St. Louis Center look forward to the month of December and the celebration of Christmas, as many groups of people visit to



shower them with food, gifts and generosity. On Saturday, December 2nd, a group from Federazione Siciliana del Michigan visited at noon to provide

a delicious Italian meal and a visit from Santa Claus himself to fill the resident's wish lists.

Then on Thursday, December 7th, the ROTC program sent members of their Marine and Navy officer candidates to St. Louis Center to sing Christmas carols and deliver gifts from the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots program.



On Sunday, December 17th, the annual Tocco Family Christmas Party took place where Santa re-appeared with gifts for everyone, opera singers and musicians performed live Christmas carols during a festive sing-along, and Jack Tocco Jr. presented Fr. Enzo with many generous donations from the Italian American Community of Michigan for Christmas.



A Golden Jubilee

CHELSEA - A joyous celebration took place at St. Mary Catholic Church and St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI on Saturday, December 16, 2017 as Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and Fr. Fortunato Turati each celebrated 50 years of service in the priesthood. Both priests were joined on the alter at Mass by the Very Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing, Very Rev. Dr. William J. Canon Turner of St. Mary Parish, and the members of their Servants of Charity congregation who were present.



These included Fr. Enzo Addari, Fr. Satheesh Caniton, and Frs. Amal, Franklin and Leo Joseph who arrived from India one year ago. Fr. Joseph and Fr. Fortunato were both members of the same ordination class that completed their training for the Servants of Charity in Chiavenna, Italy in December 1967, and were then sent to the United States in 1968.

St. Mary Parish was packed with nearly 700 parishioners and supporters on this special day, and Bishop Boyea delivered the homily and offered a special thanks to Fr. Joseph, Fr. Fortunato and the Servants of Charity for their many years of service to the Diocese of Lansing and to the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families whom they have served for so many years with love and compassion.

Following Mass, over 300 invited guests traveled to SLC for a reception and dinner. Six speakers came forward to pay tribute to Fr. Rinaldo and Fr. Turati and Fr. Enzo presented each honoree with a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis. Fr. Fortunato and Fr. Joseph each took an opportunity to speak about their mission of service during their 50 years in the priesthood, and their special lives dedicated to caring for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Fr. Fortunato now serves as the pastor for the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence at Mt. St. Joseph in Lake Zurich, IL, and Fr. Joseph remains at SLC as the superior of the local community and the Treasurer of the Divine Providence Province.

World Special People's Day

HO CHI MINH CITY - The Vietnam government does its best to organize special events for World Special People's Day each December. This year to bring attention to some who are often left-out, the local sisters asked

Fr. Felicks to help them create a video interview with some physically disabled people who sell lottery tickets on the streets of the city. He visited



the disabled people in their houses. They mostly live in groups; women stay with women and men with men. They come from different parts of Vietnam and stay in the city to do little jobs, especially selling lottery tickets. They were very happy to see the sisters and Fr. Felicks, a foreigner, speaking to them in Vietnamese. The project was meaningful for the creators and the subjects.

A New Gift to Vietnam Community

HO CHI MINH CITY - On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8th, the Divine Providence Province gave a graceful gift to the Vietnam community with the arrival of Fr. Joseph Fernandez, SdC, a newly ordained Guanellian priest, to serve as an assistant formator. He will assist Fr. Felicks and Fr. Jerin in formation of young men for the Guanellian priesthood. Fr. Joseph's priestly motto is, "To be His Servant". Listen to his joyful acceptance:

"I have begun my priestly life serving Christ and others. I am very happy to be a missionary priest in Vietnam according to God's will. As the scripture says, 'I have a plan for you'



(Job 29,11). When I was a young seminarian, I was inspired by our Guanellian priests who went to other nations to serve the Church and Congregation. I was also motivated during my formation to be a missionary priest through the classes and recollections. Whenever the missionary priests came for holidays, they sowed the seed of missionary spirit during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I have inculcated the spirit of missionary aspects from them. I would say that missionary priests have really set an example for me. That's why I am convinced and willingly accepted to be a missionary priest today. I have started my life with nothing here, but I am on cloud nine because our community fathers are looking after me very well. I am able to absorb their food and culture. I am picking up the Vietnamese language in the university. My humble request to all our Guanellians is to lift me up in your prayers constantly and continuously for my mission and perseverance."

'Cancer Cannot Defeat Me'

HO CHI MINH CITY - Miss Susan is a retired teacher from Singapore and a friend of Fr. Felicks. Recently she had a cancer operation which was successful. She always used to help the tribal girls in Vietnam through the

Franciscan Sisters. This time she stayed in our house for four days and taught our students some crafts that can be taught to our special children.



The seminarians enjoyed learning from her. She thanked God for her good health and she was renewed in body and spirit. Charity can help to defeat our sickness.

Christmas at Benhai Parish

HO CHI MINH CITY - Benhai Parish prepares a big stage outside the church every year and welcomes famous Catholic singers of Vietnam to perform before Christmas Day. This year on December 21st the parish organized a very big Christmas



Carol program. All the Religious communities of the Parish prepared a wonderful drama on the theme of Christian family. The brothers and sisters brought out their talents and gave a meaningful drama. After the play and caroling, Fr. Jerin, on behalf of the Religious, was called to congratulate the performers with flower bouquets.

Celebrating with the Visually Impaired

HO CHI MINH CITY - On Christmas Day in the evening Fr. Felicks was called to celebrate Holy Mass for the visually impaired students at the blind school run by the FMM sisters. There were about fifty very poor girls from different provinces in the hostel who are studying in Ho Chi Minh City. Fr. Felicks celebrated Mass in Vietnamese and was taken up by their beautiful voices. After Mass he was told the good news that two girls from the school participated in the Asian Para Olympic games held in Dubai in October 2107 who won three gold medals. Fr. Felicks was very moved with emotion while taking photos with them. May God continue to bless the sisters and all the girls in the hostel.





January Calendar of Events

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- 6 Epiphany of the Lord
- 8 The Baptism of the Lord
- 11 Chelsea: Guanellian Cooperators Meet - SLC
- 12 Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day-PUSJ
- 13 Chelsea: Vocational Retreat for Boys
Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 13-14 Manila: Vocation Seminar
- 19 Grass Lake: Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 23 Chelsea: Ann Arbor Music School Show - SLC
- 25 The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
- 31 Feast of St. John Bosco

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 5 Fr. Paul Arokiaraj C.: birthday
- 6 Bro. Paul Dhinakaran C.: birthday
- 7 Fr. Charles: birthday
- 9 Bro. Francis Xavier A., Bro. Alfie Matulac: birthday
- 11 Fr. M. Praveen Jeba Kumar: birthday

- 22 Fr. A. Periyamayaga Samy: birthday; Fr. Vincent M., Fr. Vincent S.: feast day
- 23 Fr. A. Periyamayaga Samy, Fr. S. Periyamayaga Samy, Fr. A. Perianayaga Samy, Bro. Periyamayagam M.: feast day
- 26 Bro. Kulandai P.: birthday
- 30 Bro. Vijay P.: birthday
- 31 Fr. John Bosco: feast day



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