

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Simple in Sample

Encounters in our life can be very surprising and heart-throbbing. Though at times some encounters may not be very pleasing, but at the end they all teach and mold us; in a way, they enrich our lives. That is why we say anything that happens in life has a purpose and meaning and it is our duty to find it out.

When we are busy making plans and preparing for the great event of Christmas in this new Liturgical Year with the season of Advent, mother Church is reminding us of the encounters we need to have or, even better, what this season stands for. We are living in the intermediate period between the Paschal Mystery of the Lord and the final Glory in the Second Coming and we do not know when this could happen. So first and foremost, this season is a sign post for the encounter that we will have at the Second Coming. Secondly, this season reminds us of our encounter with the Lord today through the sacramental life, the life of faith in the Church. Thirdly, this stands for the encounter with the Child Jesus at Bethlehem.

Amidst all preparations stands highlighted throughout the world the depiction of the Nativity at Bethlehem in the form of a crèche or crib. This could be seen in our homes, schools, offices, work places and churches. Not only children and youngsters, even adults are very much interested in having the crèche in their vicinity.

In a way we feel that God is born in our house, I have God at home. Our Pope, in his recent apostolic letter *Admirabile Signum*, highlights the nativity scene as the living Gospel to all of us. He encourages all to continue this tradition and further to get into the sentiments of St. Francis of Assisi who began this tradition in Greccio in order to relive the Bethlehem event in his time.

When we go near the crèche and see the new born Child, the immediate reaction is to fondle it and caress it and to talk to it and to listen to its giggling and to see the smile on the face. When we lift up the great Omnipotent God in the form of a vulnerable child, we understand how far, to what extent love can go. Genuine love will not be afraid to bend down, to become one among the loved like our grandparents stooping down like animals that we may take a ride on them, even though it may be hurting them. When we touch the child, we feel the poverty God took upon Himself and the path of humility, poverty and self-denial as the only tools for our redemption. When we go into the crèche with all our golden ornaments and costly attire, the child in the manger with simple clothes, would be laughing at us saying, "Why have you spent so much to come and meet Me? Your outfits may not suit My manger.I am simple."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Fr. Ronald J, SdC

Provincial Superior

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“The Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. ... at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with Him.”

Pope Francis
Admirabile Signum

INSIDE:

Provincial	2
India	3-6
United States	7
Calendar	8

December Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Chennai:** World Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 7 **Bangalore:** World Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 8 **Bangalore:** Visit to DSMP Sisters

- 11 **Skype Council Meeting**
- 17-18 **Cuddalore:** Formators Meet
- 19 **Chennai:** Intercontinental Mass - DGMS
- 22 **Chennai:** Evening School Christmas Program

What Would Love Do? By Fr. Franklin Arockiadoss

In the 1990s, there was a catchy phrase that became popular: “What would Jesus do? (WWJD). It was a very popular statement inviting everyone to think, feel and act like Christ. It brought inspiration to people and enabled them to stop and think before they proceeded to do anything. The simple teaching of this phrase, however, implies “just live like Christ did and not more than that.” A slightly different approach would be to ask, “What would love do?” Does this question convey the same message as WWJD? The answer would be “Yes”, if a person believes that God is love; however, it would be “No,” if he/she does not have that belief.

There is a tendency to limit Jesus Christ within Christianity; in many circumstances, “love” can travel, carrying beyond that meaning. It can reach monotheists, polytheists, pantheistic, atheists, and beyond. Love is a universal language and it is impossible to contain or “package” it. Pope Benedict XVI’s “Deus Caritas Est” explained three kinds of love: Eros, Philia, and Agape. Each of these stands for and promotes a different dimension of love. While Eros tends to possess and receive (ascending), Agape tends to give completely (descending) and Philia is a mutual love between friends. Therefore, the language of love could reach everyone without excluding anyone because every creature on this planet has the right to love and be loved. So, perhaps, a more appropriate question would be “What would love do?”

This could be an easy or difficult question for one to ask himself/herself in a given situation or relationship. Have you asked this question ever? Asking this empowering question will surely give deeper awareness and insight and sow the seeds for a better response. Falling in love is a great experience; with the thrill of affection, one’s pulse races, and one enters a dream world, one that avoids distraction and one that concentrates on, “What can I do for you?” Immersing oneself into the essence of this question and exploring its depth leads one to a positive result.

God the Father loved the world so much that He sent His only Son into the world (Jn 3:16). God loved His creation, and He saw that everything was good; out of love, He created Adam, and loved him; then, out of His love, He made him a partner and brought her to him (Gn 2:18-23). God then promised to send His Son after they fell into the

temptation of the serpent (Gn 3:15). What prompted God to promise sending His Son? The love that He had for humanity made Him do that. This is the power of love; it brought Him down to live amongst us. Jesus did it. Jesus came and lived among us, died and rose to save and restore us. St. Paul describes, “Though He was in the form of God, He did not regard equality with God something to be grasped, rather he took the form of a servant, born in the likeness of men, became obedient unto death, even death on a cross”(Phil 2: 6-11). This is a consequence of love. The whole world is going to celebrate this great love at Christmas, God’s manifestation of love.

What will our love do? Will it manifest this great love of God for all people? If we are His children, it must. Let us begin at home. What would love do when someone has worked all day, but work yet awaits them? Love would close the computer, or set aside any other tools, accepting “that was a long workday and it is enough”; and then send them to spend time in prayer or meditation; visiting a home bound neighbor; doing a confrere’s chores; or take a physically handicapped person to the grocery store. Love is “other” directed because of our relationship to Him.

It is also very interesting to see how Love handles the rough spots in our daily journey -what would love do when someone had a fight with his/her friend and was feeling hurt and very self-righteous? Love might make him/her sit down, acknowledge the hurt (with kindness!); and then, as the person calms down, maybe it would help him/her to see that the other had their point, too, or that the other’s actions were wrongly triggered by what he/she did.

The duty of love is to build altruism, putting others in the center. Christ always did. Whenever He was approached by someone, He always asked, “What do you want me to do for you,” (Mt 20:32, Mk 10:36, Lk 18:41). Faced with daily aggravations, hurts and stresses, we need to ask, “What would love do?” Have you heard this question asked before? Perhaps you heard it in songs or read it in a book somewhere.

What would love do if it could speak through you? If it could speak to the ones that most hurt you? More significantly, when you look into the mirror, what might love want to say to you? Would you be open to the challenge?



Cheering on the Children

KUMBAKONAM - It was our pleasure to gather the Evening School children to encourage them, to cheer them up and to evaluate their education program. On October 20th, we welcomed the evening school children from different substations to our Parish to celebrate St. Guanella's feast. After Holy Mass the children were given tea and buns. We gathered our evening school children in the old the church and gave them an



opportunity to exhibit their talents by dance and skits. Bro. Jestin Jeromin, SdC and Sr. Lourdu Mary, DSMP well animated the program. The Superior, Fr. John Bosco, SdC, motivated them to study by sharing stories of little boy Luigi. As an encouragement he gave them gifts. At the end, a sumptuous lunch was provided. The day was well assisted by Fr. Kumar, SdC, Sr. Jessi, DSMP and the GLM members.

Pledge by New Members

KUMBAKONAM - It was a great joy for Our Lady of Providence Church to welcome sincere Catholics as Guanellian Lay Movement members during the feast of our holy founder, St. Louis Guanella, on October 20th.



On this special occasion the parish priest, Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC, celebrated the Holy Eucharist; the faithful

participated with much devotion. To culminate their long journey and preparation fifteen of the chosen GLM members made their pledge to be faithful to follow the footsteps of our Founder. Fr. Bosco accepted their pledge on behalf of the Congregation for one year. At the end of Mass the faithful were blessed with the relic of St. Guanella.

At the Feet of Mother Mary

CHENNAI - The Provincialate campus was filled with the intercessions of Mother Mary and St. Joseph as their statues have been erected with their lovely son Jesus. The presence of this holy family attracted many, and the neighbors came there to pray. In a special way in the month of October, a creative rosary was organized on the campus. Throughout the month, it was good to see everyone on their knees praying the Rosary before the Blessed Mother. To close the service, Fr. Rajan, SdC



gave a talk on Mother Mary and blessed the gathering. The children enjoyed gathering around the feet of Mary, a time of fraternity and the sweets and tea that were provided at the end. The provincial superior's presence made it grace-filled.

All Souls Commemorated

CUDDALORE - As the Catholic Church celebrated All Souls Day November 2nd, the boys of Don Guanella



Boys Home attended Mass at Pudupalayam cemetery. Fr. Lourduraj, the Director, celebrated the holy Mass and the boys stood in front of the cemetery to recite the holy Rosary. In a special way, they prayed for the souls who are not remembered by anyone, not even their own family members. On that same day, the boys prayed in our chapel for the souls of all our departed benefactors.

Children's Day Celebration



KULITHURAI - Children's Day was celebrated at Kattuvilai substation on November 10th for the catechism students with holy Mass. The theme of the day was "We are God's Children." The celebration began with a prayer service by the teachers, followed by a story, a quiz and games. The quiz was based on the biography of Jawaharlal Nehru. Ex-parish council member, Mrs. Mary Bai, was the chief guest. She encouraged the children to dream big and work hard. The teachers gave a pen to each child. The program ended with a vote of thanks.

Ayudha Puja Celebration

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Special School celebrated Ayudha Puja on November 13th 2019. It is part of Dussehra Festival which is usually celebrated on the ninth day of Navaratri Festival. It is a celebration involving blessing of the tools and instruments which one uses to earn a living. First and foremost we cleaned the tools and implements completely. Then items were polished and painted, decked with chandam and kungumam.



Even vehicles were washed and decorated with plantain leaves, sugarcane and flowers. Fr. Lourduraj prayed over the instruments and vehicles, and blessed them. In conclusion the staff and children were given sweets.

November News

MYSORE - November is very special for everyone where all departed souls are remembered and prayed for. At Preethiya Sevakaru a special Holy Mass was offered for the departed souls of family members, friends and for the deceased confreres and DSMP sisters on November 13th and 27th respectively. On November 23rd brothers went to the nearby cemetery, which is managed by Mysore South Parish, and prayed the holy Rosary for all the departed souls. Fr. Martin, the parish priest, offered good hospitality while visiting his parish. We thanked him for his guidance and support before heading back



to the seminary.

Children Celebrated at Boys Home

CUDDALORE - Children's Day was celebrated at Don Guanella Boys Home on November 16th and combined with the cultural program of the month. Fr. Lourduraj,



the director, organized party games for all the boys who were so happy to participate in the program. To honor the children, special prayers were created and offered for all the children who are not able to study due to the financial struggles of their families or for those abandoned in the streets. A few boys shared their testimony and thanked our Founder, St Louis Guanella, for inspiring and providing the heavenly life at DGBH.

Day of Joy

CHENNAI - The best way to pay for a lovely moment is to enjoy it. Don Guanella Special School organized an excursion to Bangaru Adigalar Temple, Vedanthangal



Bird Sanctuary and Mazhai Malai Madha Church, Acharapakkam for the children on November 16th. Fr. Lourduraj, the director, staff and the parents also accompanied them. In the morning they visited Bangaru Adigalar Temple. After the Temple tour, the children were given lunch before continuing with the rest of the programs. The children were very happy to have this exposure; it gave them new experiences and unforgettable memories. After snacks and tea in the evening the group arrived back at school. Everyone was very thankful to Fr. Lourduraj who organized this event.

Newly Renovated Chapel Opens



KUMBAKONAM - November 23rd was a great blessing for Guanella Nagar parish because, the renovated St. Sebastian Chapel on College Road was opened by Fr. J. Ronald, SdC, Provincial Superior; and Most Rev. F. Antonisamy, Bishop of Kumbakonam, blessed the chapel, altar, vestments and all the statues. Next he presided over holy Mass assisted by Vicar General, Fr. Amirthasamy. Our

confreres Fr. Francis, SdC; Fr. S. Vincent, SdC; M. Vincent, SdC; a few seminarians, some diocesan priests and other religious priests graced the occasion.

It was a small old chapel and some 15 Catholic families belong to it. A few parishioners, namely Mr. Vincent, Mr. Stalin, Mr. Arun Mathew, Mr. Suresh and Mr. Nelson

took the initiative to renovate the chapel. They collected money from their own families, well-wishers, friends and benefactors. Even their Hindu and Muslim friends contributed generously. The Divine Providence Province has helped in the construction of the chapel. It was a collective effort resulting in a beautiful chapel.

The blessing was organized in a grand scale with decorations, fireworks and digital lighting. All the guests were given a warm welcome by a band. After Mass, there was a small reception to thank the dignitaries with shawls and honor those who helped to build the chapel. The Bishop, Vicar General and Provincial spoke words of appreciation and thanks. Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC, parish



priest, praised and thanked the parishioners who worked hard to build the chapel and organized everything in an exceptional way. A show of thanks to the choir headed by Fr. Kumar, SdC; our Guanellian sisters

Lourdu and Jessie; Regent Jestin, SdC and GLM member Mr. Thaviduraj for his beautiful decorations. There was heavy rain until afternoon when St. Sebastian performed a miracle unexpectedly, bringing bright sunshine to the relief of everyone. A sumptuous dinner was enjoyed by more than 1000 people. May St. Sebastian continue to intercede for us.

Monthly Recollection

CUDDALORE - Confreres of Don Guanella Boys Home went for their monthly recollection to FIHM (Social Service community), Pondicherry. Sr. superior of the Social Service community gave a talk for the confreres followed by a time of adoration. It was invigorating to have internal deep silence and to revitalize their relationship with God.



Anniversary of Vadapatti Mission

SIVAKASI - November 24th was the first year anniversary of the birth of Vadapatti Mission Parish. The community members, parishioners, with Msgr. Z. Joseph Selvaraj, former Vicar General and present parish priest of Sivakasi, presided over the thanksgiving Mass at Vadapatti. Many people came for holy Mass followed by an agape meal made by our faithful. After Mass, Guanella Evening School children presented



a dance program for attendees. The beauty of this is, children of other religions even participated. The tuition children were given prizes. This is the first witness that Guanellians did on this soil.

Fortifying Ongoing Formation

KOPPAKKA - The Tutelage program is organized to encourage and help the young priests to introspect about their commitment to the Lord and the mission. This year it was held in Andhra at Guanella Bhavan from Nov 26th-28th. The confreres ordained in the past five years and would be deacons participated in this three-day program. Fr. Arul, the superior of the community welcomed Fr. Ronald, SdC; Fr. Francis, SdC; and the participants. The local community members offered good hospitality. Fr. Ronald began the meeting with his introductory talk about the ways of



ongoing formation: 1. Spirituality 2. Apostolic Spirit 3. Doctrinal and Professional Orientation and 4. Fidelity to one's own Charism. Then Fr. Francis inspired the

gathering on the topic "Challenges of Religious Life". On the second day, Fr. Lourdu Raj, SJ, enriched all the confreres on "Media and Religious Life." He elaborately explained about the uses, benefits and impact of social media. The final day was a day of meaningful relaxation spent at Nirmalagiri church campus.

World Differently-Abled day

CUDDALORE - This is the day the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. The 7th Annual celebration of World Differently-Abled Day was held on November 30th at St. Anne's Hr. Sec. School. Don Guanella Boy's Home and St. Joseph's Seminary in collaboration with Immaculate Sisters organized the event for



700 differently-abled students from 15 institutions. The annual celebration began with holy Mass. Fr. Philomendoss, Director of the Pastoral Centre of Pondy-Cuddalore, celebrated the holy Mass. In his homily, he rightly noted that the Christian faith defended the differently-abled people right from the beginning of its origin and our Lord Jesus was the first man in history to speak about the social responsibility of human beings toward the suffering and differently-abled people. The protagonists of the day demonstrated their talents through dances and songs which delighted the gathering. Gifts were distributed to all the participants. Sr. Devaseer Mary, FIHM Provincial of Our Lady of Lourdes Province, presided over the program and delivered her message for all the people. Mr. Henry Lawrence (District Child Welfare Officer) and Mrs. Helen Rani (Former District Youth Coordinator) were the chief guests of the day and appreciated the service of the Guanellian family. Our hearts and stomachs were filled with the sumptuous meal arranged by the FIHM sisters.



Celebration of Saints

E. PROVIDENCE - On November 1st, All Saints' Day, the Children of Sacred Heart School held their annual



Parade of Saints. Each child dresses as their favorite saint for the parade from the school over to the Church. Fr. Silvio celebrated Mass for the children, the elderly and the Guanellian sisters. Later that day the first graders showcased their projects about the life of St. Louis Guanella.

Congressman Visits St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - St. Louis Center welcomed a visit from U.S.



Rep. Tim Walberg (R-7) on November 5th. Congressman Walberg has been a close follower of SLC since he began representing the District in Congress, and was interested in visiting the new Children's Homes that were dedicated in 2018 and the progress that was being made on Phase II of St. Louis Guanella Village. "SLC does a great job of combining private and government funds to accomplish its goals in caring for people with I/DD, and I'm pleased to see the progress they're making in the construction of St. Louis Guanella Village. It's a model program that others can follow," said Walberg.

Fall Auction Supports St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - The St. Louis Center Fall Dinner Auction continues to impress through its attendance and financial

support from the local community. This year, 190 benefactors were in attendance at the 32nd annual event on November 9th hosted by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Chelsea. According to Chairwoman Kathi Neuman, more attendance and fundraising records were eclipsed this year. "We are truly blessed to have so many people participate in this event," said Neuman, "and our success is directly tied to the hospital staff and all of our wonderful

auction committee members who are to be commended for the hard work they put in preparing for this event." Dr. Wally Niemann, Guanellian



Cooperator, was honored by Fr. Enzo Addari as a "Founder" for his

many years of dental services for the priests of SLC, and as an early member of the Community Advisory Council during the 1970's.

Forum Teaches about Trauma

CHELSEA - The fourth in a series of Special Needs Forums was held at St. Louis Center on November 19th for a program that was open to the public. Deana Fisher, COO of SLC, was the featured speaker for a program titled, "Informed Trauma Training Initiative," which all Direct Care staff has been required to attend. Recent research has shown that children with I/DD can be helped by trained staff on how to respond to their behaviors, and having a trauma informed environment is very important. Seven people made up a spirited discussion group throughout the evening, and learned how trauma may have played a role in their own lives. They also learned how they might communicate with their children or siblings in a more positive way at home.

Play Debuts at Sacred Heart School

E. PROVIDENCE - The Sacred Heart Players, a new



student drama club directed by Mrs. Karen Nerney, one of our teachers, held a premiere performance of their play, "The Truest Message". There were two dress rehearsals (one for the student body of SHS and one which was open to the public) and a dinner theatre experience in the church hall on November 23rd. The original Catholic play, written by Karen Nerney, was inspired by St. Louis Guanella. The play was originally titled "The Ascent" but it was renamed by one of the players demonstrating a deeper understanding of the content.

A Day to Give Thanks

E. PROVIDENCE - To commemorate the national day of giving thanks in the US November 28th, Fr. Silvio, Fr. Bernard, Fr. Peri and Fr. Enzo celebrated Mass at Sacred



Heart Church for the faithful. At the end of Mass, the Guanellian priests distributed blessed bread for everyone to share at their Thanksgiving table.



December Calendar of Events

- 7 **Grass Lake:** Advent Retreat - PUSJ
Sivakasi: Picnic Outing - Tuition Children
- 8 **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 14 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
- 15 **Chelsea:** Residents Christmas Program - SLC
Kumbakonam: Suppose Christmas - Evening School Children
- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
Kumbakonam: Suppose Christmas - GLM
Kumbakonam: Installation and Blessing of SLG
- 21 **Kumbakonam:** Caroling Service
- 22 **Kumbakonam:** Recollection for Parishioners
Sivakasi: Suppose Christmas - Boys Home and Benefactors
- 23 **Sivakasi:** Suppose Christmas - School children
- 24 **Vigil of the Nativity**
- 25 **Nativity of the Lord**
- 26 **St. Stephen, Martyr**
- 27 **St. John**
- 28 **The Holy Innocents**
- 29 **Kumbakonam:** Holy Family Wedding Anniversary and Evening School Celebration
- 30 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

- 8 **Fr. Nino Minetti:** birthday; **Fr. Amalraj, Fr. Amalorpavanathan:** feast day
- 9 **Fr. Antony Lourduraj, Fr. Charlton Viray:** ordination day
- 10 **Fr. Paul Francis:** birthday
- 11 **Bro. Joseph Raja Rathinam:** birthday
- 13 **Fr. Joseph Rinaldo:** birthday
- 19 **Fr. John Bosco A.:** ordination day
- 21 **Fr. Peter DiTullio, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo:** ordination day
- 22 **Fr. Kulandaisamy:** birthday
- 23 **Fr. Fortunato Turati:** ordination day
- 24 **Fr. Battista Omodei:** ordination day
- 25 **Fr. Ronald J:** birthday; **Fr. Vissampalli Maria Bala:** feast day
- 26 **Fr. Benson, Fr. Jaya Soosai, Fr. Jesu Raj, Fr. Johndass, Fr. Kulandaisamy, Fr. Pravin, Fr. Ronald J, Fr. Periyanyaga Samy S:** ordination day
- 27 **Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Shantham:** feast day
- 28 **Fr. Michael Durai Samy A.:** birthday

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 3 **Fr. Anil Francis Kumar, Fr. Francis, Bro. Francis Xavier, Bro. Antony Xaviour R.:** feast day

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