

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Conversion – From Promise to Reality

“For Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.” Rom 8,19

This is the theme Pope Francis has chosen this year for Lent. When we hear the word Lent, immediately what comes to our mind is conversion. We will very often hear this concept in homilies and reflections. Many of us show efforts to at least make some changes in our personal life and community life.

Conversion simply means turning away from sin and turning to God. St. Paul would put it in a better way in his first letter to the Thessalonians 1,9 *“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”*. Here we see the two elements of conversion: turning to God and turning away from idols.

From the reflection of the Pope we understand that the idol is the human himself when he thinks he is the god of creation, the absolute master to use creation for his creed, who says *“I want it all and I want it now”*. Instead turning to God means the realization of the children of God which will lead to the redemption of the entire creation. And today's world is in need of this sort

of conversion, where all of creation is crying out for some sort of repair and mending for future sustenance.

It is said in Indian tradition that what is inside of you is outside you: which means water, fire, the earth, space, the air that are found outside are inside of your body and you are the bundle of these five elements (panchapoothas). Our Pope recalls this fact that if individuals become sacred, then the entire creation becomes sacred and livable. Let your fasting be turning away from the temptation to devour everything to satisfy your voracity, let your prayers teach you to abandon the idolatry of ego and acknowledge the need of God's mercy and let your almsgiving be escape from the insanity of hoarding things.

We renew our baptismal promises again and again, *“I renounce sin, the lure of evil, Satan...”* but Lent is the time to make it a reality.

I wish you a fruitful Lenten Journey.

Fr. Ronald J, SdC

Provincial Superior

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“... you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”

1Thes 1,9

March Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 3 Recollection for Laity
- 5 Meeting with New Priests
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 7 Skype Council Meeting
- 8 Feast Day Mass - St. John of God Brothers' House
- 14-16 Bangalore Community Visit
- 19 Cuddalore: St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration

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Lent: Make it Simple and Joyful
By Fr. Amal, SdC

Lent is a time of self-reflection. Traditionally it has been a time of fasting commemorative of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness following His baptism. Lent is the perfect season of the year for solitude and self-reflection. As we journey spiritually into the desert, Lent is a time to re-examine our boundaries and get realigned, set in right relationship with God and the world around us. This year I would like to suggest a Lenten path to travel as the days grow longer and Easter approaches. That path is one of simplicity. Make your path simple and joyful. Simplicity, contrary to the suggestion of its name, is not a particularly simple or easy way. Simplicity or being simple is not about poverty, or a renunciation of possessions, or a set of dos and don'ts. Rather simplicity is a spiritual discipline that re-orient's one's life by deliberately organizing it for a purpose. It is spiritual because simplicity deals intimately with the beliefs and views that lend shape and order to our lives. Simplicity is a discipline because our priorities are aligned to the focus of our lives, and the way we live out our simplicity in terms of our time, energy, and money becomes a reflection of our inner beliefs. Material possessions and accumulation lead us to other difficulties as well. When we try to be simple materially it also makes our spiritual, emotional and psychological world more simple and joyful.

On the most basic level, simplicity means being honest and sincere with ourselves about our needs and wants. For the 40 days we resolve to be materially simple. By material I mean dealing with the physical stuff in our life. Is our home full of things that add beauty or function or that simply take up space and require energy and money to maintain them? It is obvious that the fewer things we have, the better our home, office, room look. We may have things in our room which we have not used for a

Simple and Joyful

year or couple of months which shows us that they are not our needs. Therefore, we resolve to become more capable of distinguishing between our needs and wants. Needs mean the minimum that

is necessary for our existence, anything beyond that is a luxury. Unfortunately, our world has made us feel that most luxuries are our needs. Living simply has become not only a challenge but an almost impossible feat in our world of excess, consumerism, and overspending.

For some, it's a gift to be simple. Simplicity is all about focusing on what's most important to you and letting go of the rest. Material things don't guarantee happiness, in fact they often lead you to covet and long for more. When you embrace simplicity, you're no longer influenced by the materialistic values of society. You can follow your own conscience, without concern for appearance. Material possessions don't define who you are because they are not a measure of how rich or poor you are.

Let's look at some practical ways to make these 40 days simple and joyful. First a search around the home and room will find many things that are not needed, or are no longer used. Find different ways to get rid of the things that are no longer necessary. Aim for quality over quantity and stop yourself from accumulating things that'll bog you down and hinder your freedom. The simple act of keeping a clean and tidy living space will make you feel lighter and less scattered. Second decide not to buy anything which is not a need. Avoid any purchase of new gadgets or things. Strive to live lightly and refrain from the temptation of buying things you don't need. Stripped down to the basics, there are very few things that humans actually need to survive. We all need food, water, shelter and community. Everything else is superfluous. So let us spend this Lent making our lives more simple and joyful.



More Workers for the Harvest

CHENNAI: The Sacred Ordination of eight deacons for the Servants of Charity was a great event in the history of the Congregation February 11th in Poonamallee at St. John the Baptist Church. The confreres of Don Guanella Major Seminary hosted this occasion. Most Rev. Dr. George Anoty Samy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, conferred the sacrament in the presence of

130 priests and many religious brothers and sisters from neighboring communities. After holy Mass, a meal was served to all the guests. Fr. Samson, local superior, thanked the parents of the eight priests for offering them generously to the congregation in the service of humanity.

(See page 5 for more details.)

Parish Feast

DINDIGUL - It is always joyful when people come together for a cause. The whole parish came together for the noble cause of celebrating the parish patron's feast. St. Antony the Abbot's Feast was celebrated in the parish February 1st-10th. Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, began the



Novena and followed by hoisting the flag of St. Antony. February 8th was a historic day for the village of Kallathupatti because of the Eucharistic procession of about 400 people. The feast was celebrated in a grand manner on the 9th and 10th by Fr. Amaladoss, Vicar Forane of the Dindigul Diocese.



Celebrating Religious

CHENNAI - The religious of Mother Church take pride in being a foundation of the church. The universal church recognizes February 2nd as the day of Consecrated Life and the feast day of the Presentation of the Lord. Don Guanella Major Seminary, in honor of the day celebrated a candle Mass beginning with a procession which started at the seminary entrance and continued to the chapel. Fr. Francis, Vice Superior of the community, celebrated the Holy Eucharist during which he invited everyone to be a holy and happy religious. He went on to inspire the brothers by saying that to be a religious is to be always happy and this should be the best gift that one can give to another.



Annual Day at Boys Home

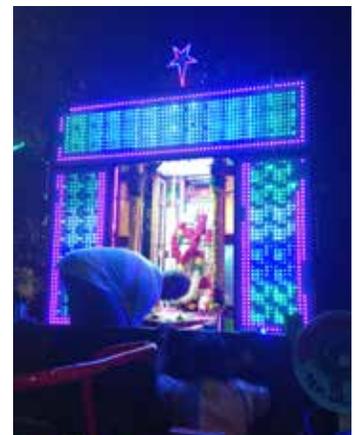
CUDDALORE - Everything within space and time has a beginning and an end. The academic year at Don Guanella Boys Home is no exception. The 2018-19 academic year began gloriously and we wanted to end it in the same manner. So we celebrated Annual Day for the parents, boys and staff on February 2nd. The event was well organized to include beautiful performances by the boys and an awards ceremony for their achievements at the recent sports meet. One of the parents witnessed our Guanellian mission in Cuddalore and gave thanks for



what we do. Fr. Peter Sebastian, Local Superior, spoke further about our Guanellian mission, vision and the purpose of DGBH opening the eyes of those present. Eventually, Mr. Christhuran, an alumnus, the secretary of 108 NGOs and an aspiring politician, delivered an inspirational message to the boys and promised them to do good things for their future endeavors. Thus, the academic year of DGBH officially ended.

Inaugural Parish Feast

VADAPPATTI - On February 4th the St. John de Britto Church feast was celebrated beginning with Mass. The main celebrant of the ceremony was Rev. Dr. M. Anandan, of the Archdiocese of Madurai. The concelebrants were Fr. S. Periyamayaga Samy SdC, and Fr. Vanathaiyan, SdC. After Mass, the parishioners enjoyed an agape meal then Fr. Anandan blessed the car. Many people in and around the Vadappatti region, even



non-Catholics and non-Christians, piously participated in the car procession, paying homage to St. John de Britto. The chief guest of day was Mr. Thanga Raj (Kovai) owner of the Kokulam Group. He also sponsored the meal. It was the first year the Parish feast was celebrated and it was indeed a joyous day. By the grace of God and the cooperation of the parishioners the feast day was a success.

Vocational Training

SIVAGANGAI - The arrival of the loom brings happiness to the lives of the children of Yesuvanam. The children are very enthusiastic to learn vocational skills. Vocational education plays a vital role in the life of special children. It makes every special child a responsible person, independent and life living. Guanella Anbagam Special School is so privileged in offering vocational skills training. The special children are put into groups and given training by the special educators. Three of them were given the training and learned very well how to make door mats on the loom. Let us all be supportive instruments in broadening the horizons of vocational activities.



A Lovely Picnic

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Evening School students and staff enjoyed a one-day picnic near Mamallapuram and



its attractions. Fr. Provincial blessed the gathering before they left. The students spent the whole day with amusement and made the day unforgettable by visiting the beautiful architecture of Five Rathas, Kovalam beach, they went on a boat ride, to a museum, and to crocodile and snake farms. Fr. Paul joyfully led the gathering with the help of Fr. Arun and volunteers Edwin, John and the Staff. Everybody came back safe and returned home with joyful hearts.

Health Awareness for Poor Children

BANGALORE - Don Guanella Evening School arranged a program on personal health care and hygiene for the children. Dr. Kevin spoke to the children with a Powerpoint presentation at their understanding level and in their own language, Hindi, which was well received as it happened to be much dialogical too. The children asked many questions to further understand his teachings. Dr. Kevin encouraged the



students by giving prizes too. The parents of the children also participated, gaining clarification about their doubts. It was a very fruitful and necessary program for children coming from the poorest neighborhoods and without much health awareness. This program was sponsored by the Asha Charitable Trust run by the Bangalore Archdiocese. We are grateful to the Asha trust and the passionate health professional. Around 80 children with their parents benefited from this program.

Free Lunch

KUMBAKONAM - "Give bread and the Lord" to the poor says St. Louis Guanella. Our Lady of Providence Church does just that every Sunday when the poor from the area come for a free lunch. On February 10th, the lunch was sponsored by Mr. Martin Annamary in honor of his son's wedding. The couple's names are Nivas Arokiaraj and Jennifer Anne Mary. Many enjoyed fish fry and fish curry. The Guanellian Lay Movement members served the food.



To Live on God's Values

CHENNAI - "The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want." With great joy and gratitude to God through the intercession of Mary Mother of Divine Providence and the Apostle of Charity St. Louis Guanella, Dn. Paul Dhinakaran, Dn. Arun, Dn. Kumar, Dn. Jesudoss, Dn. Thambusamy, Dn. Suresh, Dn. Rambabu celebrated their ordination in glory and honor of God in the presence of the Guanellian family. The ordination was conferred by Most Rev. Fr. George Antony Samy. This solemn celebration was pious in manner and the values of Christ overflowed through the Bishop's homily. The congregation and the holy Catholic Church whole



heartedly accepted and appreciated their wish for the mission and ministry of Christ. These eight new priests with one solemn acclamation proclaimed their promise saying 'Yes' to the Lord. "These Servants of Charity strive to lead the people and fulfill the ministry of God with commitment, competency, and conviction in order

to demonstrate the 'Love of Christ' in their lives," said Fr. Samson, Rector. "These priests will always submit to the Spirit of God dwelling in them and will commit themselves to lead with compassion and love."

Little Samaritans

CUDDALORE - The young scholastics of St. Joseph's Seminary are so eager to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy through "the Good Samaritan Ministry" for the road wanderers in and around the



city of Cuddalore. This ministry of mercy helps them to be immersed into the ocean of the Guanellian spirit and mission. Their generous service includes shaving, hair care, bathing, clothing, feeding and rehabilitating life skills. It gives them joy and grace recognizing Jesus on the wounded faces which transforms into the healing face of Christ.

First Masses Celebrated

CHENNAI - "God must be glorified and loved for Himself, because He is supremely worthy of love." In order to lead like Jesus, the eight new apostles of the Servants of Charity celebrated their first holy thanksgiving Masses. The love of Christ was felt during each celebration. They became followers of Christ more intensely under the umbrella of St. Louis Guanella. "The way they live their lives should communicate the message that they are followers of Christ," Fr. Ronald said. The influence of God intervenes into their personal lives especially religious of the Servants of Charity to discover "Abba's" love and diffuse the filial affinity to the people who have no one. It was the glorious outset for the congregation and our holy Catholic Church who accepted these eight new servants for the mission of Christ; their vision of love, to accompany and to be convicted only for the glory of God.

12 Feb	Fr. Paul Dhinakaran	Chennai
13 Feb	Fr. Suresh	Gundur

14 Feb	Fr. Rambabu	Vijayawada
15 Feb	Fr. Kumar	Thindivanam
16 Feb	Fr. Thambusamy	Thennur
17 Feb	Fr. Jesudoss	Kallakurichi
18 Feb	Fr. Arun	Salem
19 Feb	Fr. Johnson	Palani

A Salute to the Brave

SIVAGANGAI - It was a sentimental moment at Guanella Anbagam when the special children paid



tribute to the Central Reserve Police Force soldiers martyred during the Pulwama attack in Kashmir. India lost 40 Jawan sons February 14th when a suicide bomber attacked a CRPF convoy in Jammu and Kashmir. As the country stands united in protest against the dastardly act we also observed our sentiments against this act. In a unique gesture we had a wreath-laying ceremony to pay tribute to the martyred CRPF Jawans. The children paid homage to the soldiers by lighting candles and observing a few moments of silence. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the martyred soldiers.



Solemn Tower Feast

VATLURU - The solemn tower feast of Sacred Heart Church, Eluru Diocese, began on February 19th with the flag procession from the tower, the festal flag was blessed by Fr. Benson, the local superior. The parishioners and children carried small flags and came in solemn procession with

a band to the newly erected pole where the festal flag was hoisted by Fr. Francis Assisi, the parish priest, in the presence of the other fathers. The flag hoisting Mass was celebrated by Fr. Logani MF. The novena Masses were celebrated by various priests. The glorious festal Mass to culminate the feast, was celebrated by Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, and concelebrated with all other fathers.



Sports day for Tuition Kids

BANGALORE - Don Guanella Evening School enjoyed an evening of sports on February 19th. Asha Charitable Trust, run by the Bangalore Archdiocese, conducted a half-day sports and games for the kids. A variety of



sports filled the campus with lots of fun, laughter and even a talent show. Kids were enthusiastic to participate and win prizes. The brothers and teaching staff led the games. From the Trust, Sr. Juliana and Mr. Antony CA were the chief guests, sponsoring the prizes, cool drinks and snacks for children. The parents of the children also were invited and enjoyed the performances of their children.

Visit of the Sisters

KRISHNAPERI - On February 21st the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence (DSMP) visited St. Paul's Boys Home. It was a remarkable day because it was the first time Sr. Neuza Maria Giordani, DSMP Vicar General, Sr. Esther Leroux, DSMP General Counselor, and Sr.



Victoria William, DSMP Indian Delegate Superior, visited the mission. The community fathers welcomed them and made them feel at home. They visited the students and Veeramamuniver High School students and staff. They spoke to the students and encouraged them to study well and to be happy. Finally they complemented the community fathers who are all doing wonderful work at this place which is considered the periphery.



Anbagam promotes national integrity, as well as social, cultural and moral values within society. Annual Day concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Mrs. Magesh, one of the faculty members.

Boys on a Picnic

KRISHNAPERI - Our happiest times from our school days where those when we went off campus as a group to picnic. On February 23rd, St. Paul's boys were very happy and joyful, because they enjoyed their picnic with energetic conversation with one another, youthful dance and their songs. The day added more colors to the boys by visiting various new places and learning new

things. They were delighted to see the new places such as Sirumalai Madha, Andal Temple, Tharagumalai Madha, and Thiruvananamalai Perumal Temple. At the end of the day, the boys thanked the community confreres Fr. S. Periyannayaga Samy, Community Superior; Fr. David, Director, Fr. Vanathaiyan SdC Assist Director and Mr. Prabhu the boys home warden for their well arrangements.



9th Annual Day Celebration

SIVAGANGAI - St. Guanella Anbagam Special School commemorated its 9th Annual Day at Yesuvanam. The day was celebrated with various programs. The special children and evening school children presented colorful items with great enthusiasm and fervor. Mr. K. Annathurai (DGM First Garment Manufacturing Company, India p.v.t, Kalayarkovil). Mr. D. Annathurai (A.R Silks, Kalayarkovil) Mr. P. Muthuraj (A.B.S Raj Hi-tech A/C Marriage Hall, Kalayarkovil) were the guests of honor. Three of our children, Bahavath, Geetha and Kuran, invoked God's blessings upon the gathering by reading from the Bible. Fr. Paul Francis presented the welcome address and felicitated the guests of honor with ponnadai and a shield. Fr. Arputharaj, the director, presented the annual report and highlighted the achievements of the school in academics, curricular and extra-curricular activities. The Anbagam special children presented three dances and one mime. The mime performance of our children received great applause from the audience. The enactment of mime was presented on the theme of save water, save humans, no to plastics. Mr. P. Muthuraj, the guest of honor, gave a speech lauding the efforts of our special children and staff in making the program a grand success. He said that Guanella Anbagam has set an example of charity for the region; highlighting that



Third Theological Forum

CHENNAI - The Third theological forum on Social Issue "Defense" was hosted at Don Guanella Major Seminary on February 28th. It was to discuss in detail the struggles and turmoil that the Army for the Country undergoes. Fr. James Stanly Babu was the guest of honor to moderate the sessions. The forum began with the talks by different brothers who presented in a precise and informative manner. There was also time for questions and clarifications. Fr. Periyannayagam, Vice Rector, was present for the Forum and towards the end he appreciated every one for their strenuous efforts in making the forum beautiful and colorful.



Pasta with Friends

CHELSEA - On Tuesday February 5th, the small dining room next to the kitchen at St. Louis Center was filled with laughter and fun, as sixty people arrived to enjoy a great pasta dinner with their favorite Servants of Charity priests. This annual event is a fundraising dinner that stems from the



Fall Dinner Auction in November, where patrons raise their paddles to pay \$25 each to enjoy an evening with the priests with dinner and a glass of wine on a cold winter night. Several people have expressed an interest in making the event even bigger next year by offering it to people outside of the Fall Auction. Community Advisory Council member Kathi Neuman chairs this event.

Night to Shine

CHELSEA - Since 2015, the Tim Tebow Foundation has held a night at the prom for persons with disabilities. The event has grown over the years and is now hosted in churches all over the world. This year, St. Louis Center



residents were able to attend the event held locally at 2/42 Community Church on February 8th. The ladies arrived and were crowned Queens of the Prom before being escorted down the red carpet by members of the University of Michigan Baseball team. Inside the event, they were served dinner, danced and even had fun in the photo booth. It was an amazing experience that will be extended to more of the SLC residents next year.

Montessori Lifestyle Training

CHELSEA - St. Louis Center was the recipient of three days of specialized training in the Montessori teaching method for older adults with I/DD by Dr. Cameron Camp and his associate Mr. Vince Antenucci from February 20th–22nd. Dr. Camp is the Director of the Center for Applied Research in Dementia in Cleveland, OH. This training was provided for by a grant from the MI Health Endowment Fund.

Montessori is a method of education that is based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play, and Dr. Camp's research has shown that this training; first developed for children,



is also effective for older adults with special needs.

On the evening of Wednesday February 20th, forty-five people from the local community visited SLC to attend a Special Needs Forum open to the public, where Dr. Camp laid out his vision for a Montessori program that would make SLC a "Center of Excellence" in the State of Michigan. Then on February 21st & 22nd, he trained forty members of the SLC staff in how to apply Montessori methods to SLC's diverse mix of residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

According to Dr. Camp, "The amount of time you can engage your residents in meaningful activity, is the amount of time you won't have to deal with problems. Montessori will give you the tools to engage your residents. 'Normalization' is returning someone to who they used to be, and meaningful activity provides them with independence. In today's world, we must now look at things in a different way with new eyes."

Dr. Camp will be a regular visitor to SLC during the next two years, and in the second year, will be inviting first responders to SLC to participate in this training.

March Calendar of Events

- 1-2 **Chelsea:** Pinewood Derby
- 2 **Krishnaperi:** Annual Day - St. Paul's Boys Home
- 3 **Krishnaperi:** Special Mass for 10th and 12th students - Vadapatti Church
- 8 **Krishnaperi:** Special Mass for 10th Students - Veeramamuniver High School
- 9 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
Kumbakonam: Lenten Pilgrimage to Saleth Madha Shrine
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day-PUSJ
- 14 **Krishnaperi:** St. Paul's Boys Home Student, Sankareswaran, 10th Exam
- 18 **Chelsea:** Grand Opening of Model Train Display
- 19 **St. Joseph, Husband of Mary**
Grass Lake: St. Joseph's Table - PUSJ
Krishnaperi: Boys Home Solemnity Celebration - Vadapatti Parish
- 21 **Chelsea:** Day Program on Outing with DTE
- 24 **First Religious Profession of Servants of Charity (1908)**
- 26 **Krishnaperi:** Birthday of Vettrimaran - St. Paul Boys Home
- 28 **Anniversary of the Death of Fr. Mazzucchi**
- 29-30 **Kumbakonam:** Pilgrimage to Thalavadi

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Bro. Jesu Doss:** birthday
- 2 **Fr. Prakesh Philemen Raj:** birthday
- 4 **Fr. Maria Julian Bernard:** birthday
- 5 **Fr. John Joseph:** feast day
- 6 **Fr. Bernandes:** birthday
- 10 **Fr. Antony Kalai Selvan:** birthday
- 13 **Fr. John Bosco A., Fr. Paulraj P.:** birthday
- 15 **Dcn. Abraham A.:** birthday
- 17 **Bro. Mark A. LLanuza:** birthday; Fr. Jegan Patrick Daniel: feast day
- 19 **Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Fr. Jayasoosai, Fr. Edal Vinoth Joe, Fr. Joseph Fernandez S., Fr. Vellington:** feast day
- 20 **Fr. Louis Baskar:** birthday
- 21 **Fr. Rishar Raffee Jegan:** birthday
- 25 **Fr. Roosevelt:** birthday
- 29 **Fr. Alphonse Maria Ligori:** birthday
- 30 **Fr. Dominic Sebastian Baskar:** birthday



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