

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Waiting Waiter

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of hope. We do not wait for something of which we are not sure. We are used to waiting from the very start of our life. We waited for 10 months to be born; before this fast and express world, we used to wait a lot for everything. We waited for so many things in life: persons, things, events, in hospitals, schools, bus stops, restaurants, banks, post offices, malls waiting for our turn. Now we are waiting for a few weeks in preparation to encounter the Lord. This waiting has triple dimensions: We wait for the Jesus who was born 2020 years ago (we commemorate the event on Dec. 25th with the depiction of His birth in the manger). We wait for the Jesus who said that He would return. We wait for the Jesus who is coming to us every day through the Word of God, through the Sacraments, in acts of love and mercy. We are waiting to meet Jesus as Zaccheus did, while we should not forget that He is also waiting to meet us every day in various ways.

As the waiter who is at the table always keen on feeding us with special dishes, the Lord is waiting to feed us, to nourish us. At times we may be overwhelmed with the commemoration of the birth of Jesus through decorations and other external signs of Christmas, we tend to forget or ignore the fact more than I am waiting for Him, He is waiting at the door of inner self, "Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them," (Jn 14,23).

Advent is the time of Hope during which the people, "living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned," (Mt. 4,16). The whole world right now is in a time of darkness in this unusual situation. Only the Lord can ignite hope and

life in them. Let us, on our part, be people of encouragement and sowers of hope among society. Our Founder and Father is the great forerunner for this fact. When everything seemed closed to him, all dreams becoming unrealizable, spending years of his priesthood in vain, he clung to God and His providence, waiting for the hour of mercy. Let us be open to the Lord who is trying to get closer to us, waiting at our door steps to transform us, waiting to ask us, "what do you want Me to do for you," (Mk 10,56); waiting to ask us, "Do you believe?" (Mt 9,27-30); waiting to feel sorry for me that I am hungry," (Mt 15:32); waiting to ask us, "do you want to be healed?" (Jn 5,6). Let us feel united to the Lord more than ever in this season and be ready to receive His abundant blessings.

We thank God for the gift of nine new priests to our Congregation.

Congratulations to Fr. Arockiaraj, Bro. Melvin and Bro. William for completing their higher Studies in Rome.

Congratulations to Fr. S. Arul who has ventured into the Spain Mission.

Hearty Wishes to Fr. Joseph Rinaldo on his 80th Birthday.

A good conscience is a continual Christmas - Benjamin Franklin

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

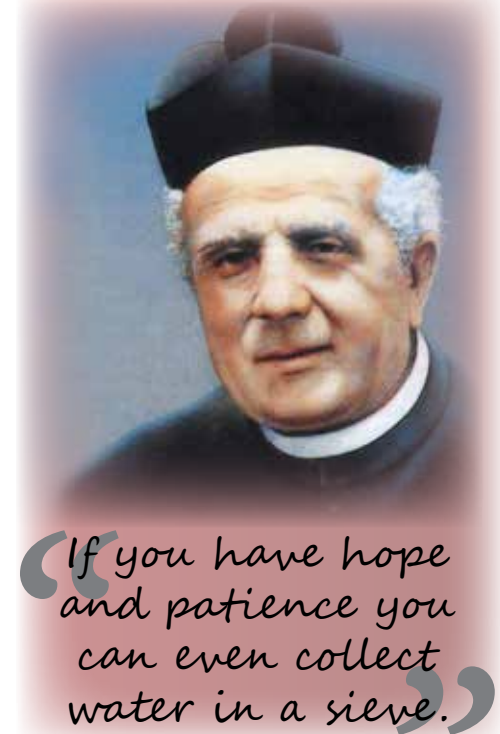
Fr. Ronald J, SdC
Provincial Superior

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December 2020

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December Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- Chennai:** Ongoing Formation - DGMS
- Chennai:** Meeting DGSS Staff
- Pallam:** Marriage Mass
- Avadi:** Flag Hoisting - JB Estate
- Kumbakonam:** First Profession with Seva Missionaries and Community Visit
- Virtual Council Meeting**
- Tedlam, Andra:** Marriage Mass
- Koppaka:** Community Visit
- Cuddalore:** Formation Class - SJS
- Chennai:** Intercontinental Mass - DGMS
- Warangal Mission:** World Day of Persons w/Disabilities
- Banjara Mission:** Community Visit
- Chennai:** Christmas Celebration

Homily of Bishop George Antony Samy, Chennai Archdiocese

Ordination November 12, 2020

Clergy should be a symbol of happiness. What is happiness? Happiness is not just about laughing; not in getting what we need but true happiness remains in obedience to the call of our Lord. I hope to reveal to you the three priestly joys that Pope Francis points out.

1. Accepting - Glad to accept the call of God.
2. Experiencing- Happiness in living up to the Call.
3. Sharing – Happiness relies on the sharing of joy in experiencing the call of God.

Acceptance We see that God sends Samuel to anoint David. "I do not see man as he sees". The turning point in this event, "Man sees the face and the Lord sees the inside," (1 Sam. 16,7) as well as what God expects of you? Your innate commitment and desire is why your call should give you joy and shock. The word "YES" is easy to pronounce, "difficult to live" and we prove that happiness comes only when we live according to that call. This is what the saints lived for, especially Mother Teresa, Francis Xavier, Benedict, and Queen Elizabeth of Hungary. Your call is a shocking surprise to you. If you have felt the call of God, it is well and good. Perhaps if you have not realized the superiority of that call ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit now. The call is given according to the need; in every moment in life, in every event, in every failure, in every misery. Happiness comes to us only when we respond accordingly.

Experiencing A religious congregation is the "life of clergy in the community". Community life is a real experience of living God's call. When Pope Francis speaks about the identity of the religious priesthood he says that "the worship of the I" is self-worship. 'I' and 'Mine' are the greatest idolatry in monasticism. "Group Life" is essential for monks. They are not called to live alone but to live with their Creator. When do you start living in your individuality? You will be forced to live separately. "How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together!" (Ps 131,1-2). Only in clerical companionship can you experience the call, not in solitude.

Sharing The holiness of the Priest resides in sharing his life with others. "Those who dedicate themselves to Christ are those who are set apart for Christ." Set apart doesn't mean set above the people. Your blessing is in working with people. The priesthood is the act of transforming oneself into employees, not into employers. St. Paul reminds us to "consider the

condition in which you were called? How many of you are sages according to human prediction? How many adults? How many aristocrats?" He underlined the words of Fr. Guanella: "The whole world is our homeland. As long as there are poor to be assisted and distress to be relived our charity never ends." Pope Francis says that the priesthood can be divided into two types: 1. Office Clergy and 2. Preaching the Gospel, so, as Christ pointed out "go into the entire world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation," (Mark 16,15). Please share the joy of your experience with the Lord to His people. .

Prayerful Birthday



PROVINCIALATE - On November 29th, we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Achariyam. In the morning everyone wished him a long life and everyone prayed for him in the holy Mass. That evening Fr. Achariyam animated Solemn Adoration with Evening Prayer. In a special way during Adoration we prayed for his

good health and for his well-being. After Benediction the celebration came to an end with a dinner organized by Fr. Paul Dinakaran and cake cutting. Many thanks to Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, for his presence that day.

Time to Recollect

PROVINCIALATE - On November 21st, the confreres of the Provincialate house and the Don Guanella Major Seminary confreres had their monthly recollection at the Jesuit House in Uthiramerur. The priests of Loyola Higher Secondary School welcomed them for a fruitful experience with the Lord. Fr. Eugene preached about the importance of community life and he explained that religious life is a witness for true faithful Christians. He also asked them to discern the will of God in prayer and understand what one must do. Everyone meditated in front of the Eucharistic Lord a half-hour before confession. Afterwards, Fr. Antonysamy celebrated the holy Mass. A delicious dinner was organized by the Jesuit fathers.



Santa Comes – Gifts Come

By Fr. Franklin, SdC

A few days ago, I was talking to the children at St. Louis Center and I asked them about Santa. Immediately, there were many responses. Santa comes and the gifts come, was the unanimous, undisputed answer. While some others described his clothes, beard, belly, and his reindeer, the concept of gifts coming was very strong. We all know the history of Santa Claus, a myth that developed from a very real St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas lived a life that helped others to see the reality of Christ. How can we follow his example and help others to see Christ in us (in real flesh and blood) this Christmas? When Santa comes, the gift comes. What about you and me? Do we take a gift and share it, or do we take anything else to share?

Here are a few things that the tradition says about St. Nicholas. In honor of St. Nicholas, the gift giver, Christians began to celebrate December 6th (his feast day) by giving presents. A tradition developed - over time - of St. Nicholas

coming in his red bishop's robe for good boys and girls and filling boots with gifts on the night of December 5th. For bad boys and girls, St. Nicholas was to be feared. In highly Catholic parts of Europe, St. Nicholas became a deterrent to erring young children. In Germany, he was often accompanied by Knecht Ruprecht (farmhand Rupert), who threatened to eat misbehaving children. In Switzerland, St. Nicholas threatened to put wicked children in a sack and bring them back to the Black Forest. In the Netherlands, St. Nicholas's helper would tie them in a sack and bring them back to Spain. In parts of Austria, the priest, dressed up in Christmas garb, would visit naughty children's homes and threaten them with rod-beatings so that they would change their behavior and get ready to receive the gifts from Santa.

One aspect of the historical St. Nicholas that is emphasized is his generosity. Among the many stories, one of the most famous involves St. Nicholas secretly delivering gold to a father and his three daughters who, through misfortune, had become destitute. The practice of giving gifts in Santa's name began as just a way of giving anonymously. Secret generosity is consistent with how St. Nicholas gave gifts; and, more importantly, it follows Jesus' instruction to let our giving be done in secret. As Jesus said, "Your Father who sees what is done in secret,

will reward you," (Mt 6,4). "Freely you have received; freely give," (Mt 10,8). God's grace is not conditional; it is freely given to us all to be generous and make others live happily. Hans Urs von Balthasar says, "what you



are is a gift of God to you, what you become is your gift to God." Our Heavenly Father sent His only Son to us, though He didn't need to. Jesus died on the cross, though He didn't need to. St. Nicholas shared all his wealth with the poor and needy. After a great tragedy hit his life and took away his parents, he did not turn against God. St. Nicholas became a bishop and served the needs of his sheep. He served them generously, and he was generous to the maximum. Similarly, because of this generosity, all the saints - and there are many more - will be standing at the Lamp's right side (Mt 25,34).

How are we going to be generous - especially during the time of

crisis during the confusion of the COVID-19 pandemic? Terry Tempest says that "grief dares us to love more." Today we need a daring hope to face and overcome all these difficulties and become a gift to one another. In communion with the saints in heaven, we are all God's gift and grace to each other. Therefore, wherever we go, we must go with a generous heart. So Santa comes, the gifts come. When you go to reach out with compassion and generosity to others, you walk with Jesus and with all the saints who spent their lives sharing that love. It is important today that we reach out to neighbors and to the larger community, especially the poor and those economically threatened by this crisis, with a generous heart. In one recent incident, a woman saw a young lady with three children who was crying; when she asked why, the young mother told her she had no money to buy her kids food; this woman took her to the grocery store and had her fill up her cart with necessities, then paid her \$185 bill. It was a simple, but powerful act; she showed us how, like St. Nicholas, we have the power, with our generous spirit and love, to bring the gift of Christ to everyone. Tell everyone that God loves them with your heart and your actions. He is ready to wish everyone, "Happy Christmas with a gift."

Don Guanella Kanmanigal Evening School

SIVAGANGAI - The confreres at Yesuvanam are doing their ministry well as our founder, St. Louis Guanella, would expect. Its name in Tamil “Kanmaingal” means precious like an eye and it indicates the eye’s retina: especially, at present during this COVID-19 we extend



our generosity towards the poor and needy. “Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world,” this is the motto of our schools. We have

six centers in our area with seven teachers and nearly 200 children who are benefiting. They learn discipline, morality, life educational skills, plantations, educational aids, cleanliness and more. They attend our education program for two hours. There used to be more celebrations, but since March there have been many restrictions and not many activities can be carried out.

There is now more concern about the children. We visited them several times personally during this pandemic period to console them and their families. We advised and instructed them how to protect themselves from this virus. We examined them thoroughly and fulfilled their basic needs to be safe at this time. We gave them sanitizers, masks, and soaps as aids to protect themselves. The children were very happy and they thanked us from the bottom of their hearts. On one visit, we gave them a delicious meal (Chicken biryani) that they enjoyed to the core.

We provided one sack of rice for each of the evening school teachers; they too were happy. They thanked us and welcomed our Guanellian service to the poor with open arms. All the institutes remain closed. No children from our side were affected with the new virus by the Grace of God. When the government gives the ok, the evening schools will return to regular programming.

Visit of the Health Inspector

THALAVADI - The purpose of a health and sanitary inspection is to find out whether the institution is kept clean and tidy. In order to obtain the Government license to run the MI program, the institution needed to achieve the sanitary certificate, building approval and the fire certificate. Nazareth Illam arranged for the health inspector to visit. He gave a few guidelines regarding our institution in order to obtain the sanitary certificate. He was happy about our cleanliness and

orderliness on the campus, and finally, he approved and issued the sanitary certificate. We sincerely thank the team for their commitment to cleanliness.



Gardening is Therapeutic

THALAVADI - To nurture the garden is to feed not just the body but also the soul. Nazareth Illam prepared



a garden for many reasons. A garden requires residents’ labor and attention that reduces their stress levels. The residents planted vegetable plants and prepared the ground

for the garden. It confirms that the physical activity of gardening improves the mental well-being of our residents. It provides instant gratification to their mind. It unleashes their anger and aggression and it provides an opportunity to get in touch with nature.

October: The Month for Guanellians

THALAVADI - The month of October was an outstanding opportunity for Nazareth Illam to sanctify the entire campus and the inhabitants. Every year Nazareth Illam happily celebrates St. Louis Guanella’s feast with pride and honor. The feast started with a Triduum to our Founder on each of these days Holy Mass was celebrated and the Litany to our Founder was recited, organized by the fathers.

Since October 24th is marked as a very special day to



Guanellians, the celebration started with a procession in which the

relic of St. Louis Guanella was carried. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Gnanaraj the Superior. The residents, staff and their families took

part in the Mass. They participated actively and prayed for the COVID-19 pandemic to end.

The Joy of the Beach

CUDDALORE - In commemoration of the Feast of the Mother of Divine Providence the seminarians went on an outing to the beach of OT on November 8th. They all enjoyed swimming, playing and dancing on the sea shore. They all had a great time especially since it was the first beach experience for some of them who are from north India. It was indeed a gift of the providence of Mother Mary to have a chance to bathe in the sea since it had just been re-opened after shutdown. The beach was fully fresh, new and free. Everyone had an evening of youthful fun and showers of blessings.



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Mary in the Glory of Purple Lights

CUDDALORE - In commemoration of the feast of our Mother of Divine Providence, the statue at the entrance of St. Joseph's Seminary was given a new shelter of stainless steel with an outline of purple LED lights. It turned out to be so glorious, attractive and colorful. It is very nice to visit her and pray to her in the evening standing in the flood lights. May our Mother bless us and guide us to be more faithful children.



Gift of New Priests Celebrated

CUDDALORE - St. Joseph's Seminary was privileged and excited to welcome the nine newly ordained priests immediately following their ordination. The confreres of the



seminary organized a simple yet meaningful felicitation of an informal nature which was very exciting and interesting. In the morning on November 14th there was a program which included honoring each of them with a shawl and bouquet. There were dances, singing, free verses and lighting kuthuvilakku. The whole

program was filled with laughter and creativity. The new priests celebrated their first Mass in this seminary where they first joined the congregation and grew to be passionate about priestly formation. They gave thanks to God in the church where their dreams to become priests grew. The young seminarians were attracted by the new priests' coming, their joy, friendship and spirit.

Celebrating the Festival of Lights

CUDDALORE - Deepavali is one of the popular and common festivals in India. It is a festival of lights which depicts the victory of good over evil. It literally means, 'a cluster of lights.' Usually the young everywhere light firecrackers, the adults enjoy the day sharing sweets and festive meals. The seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary celebrated the day with firecrackers and games. How lovely it is to shout in gladness and jubilation to light fires and run around. It was a night full of smoke and shouts of joy. Seminarians enjoyed sharing sweets as well.



Seminarians Monthly Recollection

CUDDALORE - On November 22nd the seminarians of St. Joseph's had a half-day recollection by Fr. Ligory, the Spiritual Director. He talked on the "Plan of God for each one". God has a purpose for the creation of every one of us: to know Him, love Him and serve Him and reach heaven to be with Him. Lost in the attractions and distractions of the world one shall not defeat God's purpose and lose one's glory of heaven He insisted upon. He encouraged the seminarians to enjoy the well-organized seminary life, become more holy and receive more of God's blessings by a committed life for God. With adoration, confession and Eucharist the day was well-organized and received.



Happy 3rd Birthday

SIVAKASI - On November 22nd we celebrated the 3rd birthday of the Vadapatti mission parish. To begin, Fr. S.P Samy, parish priest, animated a half-hour thanksgiving adoration followed by holy Mass. Fr. John Martin, the parish priest of Sivakasi, was the main celebrant and homilist. In his homily he extolled the work of the Guanellian fathers and spiritual animation to the faithful. He also said that Vadapatti is a small group of faithful living and building together a beautiful church:



bell tower, flag pole, arch and Grotto to commemorate the 50th Golden Jubilee. A testament to the guidance of the parish priest. Fr. Vincent and Fr. Vimal concelebrated. Since it was the feast day of St. Cecilia, we honored choir members with small gifts and a cake cutting. Fr. S. P. Samy gave thanks and a final blessing to close the event.

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Stay Awake-Be Vigilant

KOPPAKA - As we need food to strengthen our bodies, we also require spiritual nourishment to strengthen and build our relationship with God. Therefore the monthly recollection offered for our spiritual maintenance began on Saturday, November 28th with night prayer and ended on the 1st Sunday of Advent. This recollection helped us to rest a while with the Lord, to turn back to our personal life to grow more in spirituality and to build our relationship with the Lord and with our brethren.



This monthly recollection privileged us to reflect on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were asked to “stay awake,” prepare well to

receive the newborn baby in our hearts even during this COVID-19 pandemic’s painful situation and to enjoy the glory of His coming. Moreover, the recollection preacher stressed “Vigilance”. He also requested that we awaken our good virtues that are sleeping within us. Finally he urged us to stay awake for the people and situations which really need us.

Blessing of the Bikes

KOPPAKA - Tools and instruments play vital roles in our life’s journey. “Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in.” Education is the ambition to acquire knowledge and is the path to reach



success. Therefore the vehicle is the means to reach our destination. In order to reach this success, the Guanella Bhavan community bought nine new bicycles for use by the students attending college. After Mass we blessed the bicycles and explained the benefits of cycling. They were also suggested to use them for education and ministry purposes. Later the bicycles were presented to the college-going brothers by Fr. Arul Raj, community superior.

Feast of Christ the King

KOPPAKA - On November 22nd we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King at Guanella Bhavan. The holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Arul Raj. We prayed especially for Fr. Arul Raj and Fr. Christ Raju since it was their feast day. The celebration



concluded with a delicious lunch.

Catechism for Children

VATLURU - "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6,35) The catechism explains that the chief effects of a worthy Holy Communion are: 1. a closer union with our Lord and a more fervent love of God and of our neighbor; 2. an increase of sanctifying grace; 3. preservation from mortal sin and remission of venial sin; 4. the lessening of our inclinations to sin and the help to practice good works. Therefore “We should prepare the children worthily to receive the Divine Redeemer in



their hearts by making fervent acts of faith, hope, love, and contrition.” As a result, Catechism classes are being organized by Fr. Assisi, the parish priest. There are about 35 children who are attending the classes and preparing to receive First Holy Communion on December 25th. They are given three weeks of training by priests and sisters.

Day of Recollection

VATLURU - “Recollection makes us wise by reflecting on our past, and sharpens our intellect and mind to carry out our responsibility to make a better future for the world”. The Guanella Karunalaya community and Guanella Bhavan fathers gathered for their monthly recollection. Fr. Gregory, superior of Subhodayam Nilayam of Eluru was the preacher. He radiated the healing rays of light by preaching on the challenges of religious life such as “we are called to be healers not rulers, we need wisdom not cleverness, vision and mission must go hand in hand in our life. Do the right things for the people; seek always the will of God not your own. As religious we must obtain credibility in our way of life and learn to acknowledge one another’s talents. Treat everyone as humans”.



All Souls Day

VATLURU - “The memory of death is painful, but it is the start of a new, beautiful journey. Sending prayers to the loved ones in heaven”. Death is just the last and long sleep. We hope that it will be a dreamy gateway to



heaven for everybody! All Souls' Day was very special in Vatluru because everyone decorated their beloved one's grave and Mass was offered in the cemetery itself. Fr. Sanjay, SDB, was the celebrant and preached the homily. He stated that Christians are divided into three categories: jai Christians (Church Triumphant), battle Christians (Church Militant) and badamayamaina Christians (Church Penitent). Frs. Assisi, Christu and Jose con-celebrated. We remembered the departed souls of Frs. Thanasekar, Bosco Rajendra and Visampalli Maria Bala.

Rehab Services Continue

SIVAGANGAI - St. Guanella Anbagam Special School is privileged that home based rehabilitation services have been offered to the special children by the teaching staff. This type of rehabilitation service has become the main gadget as well as a challenging task amidst the covid-19 pandemic which still persists. Since our children were transferred from the residential setting to the home setting due to the pandemic, we have observed the vulnerabilities such as poor continuity of care, deprivation of daily routine activities, therapeutic assistance, food and medical care and more. In order to recreate the same atmosphere, our disciplinary team (special educators, therapist, care takers) have taken the initiative to provide maximum rehabilitative services by visiting their homes. At the home setting our children are supported with physical exercises, occupational therapy, speech therapy and self-care activities. This approach will be continued until school resumes. Our special children expressed their inexpressible joy and happiness at the service of our staff team.



Yesterday's Starters-Today's Masters

BANGALORE - On November 1st, All Saints' Day, in the presence of Mr. Dominic Tilak, president of the Guanellian Cooperators, four aspirants: Mr. Xavier, Mrs. Shyla, Mrs. Amalorpavam and Mrs. Estelle were welcomed to join the Guanellian Cooperator's Association. Fr. Kulandaisamy, SdC, Superior of the



Bangalore community, received the declaration of their intent soon after holy Mass. It was a private celebration. Let us congratulate and accompany these newcomers who have come forward to follow in the footsteps of our beloved founder, St. Louis Guanella.

Triduum Honors Christ the King

BANGALORE - To prepare ourselves and the lay faithful for the solemnity, a Triduum in honor of Christ the King began on November 19th. Each day included special adoration, holy Mass, and the litany to Christ the King and The holy Rosary were prayed together in a simple way during this pandemic. On the festive Sunday three Masses (2 English & 1 Tamil) following restrictions given by the government and the diocese were celebrated in the community. That evening, Benediction was organized by the community fathers.



Prevention is Better than a Cure

BANGALORE - On November 24th Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) set up free testing centers in the Kothanuru zone. This BBMP also had a free COVID-19 rapid check up at Don Guanella Aged Home. All 31 senior citizens of the institute were given first preference and were checked by the BBMP health department. By the grace of God all of them tested negative.



Feast of Our Lady

BENGALURU - The Guanellians of Bengaluru as sons (Servants of Charity - SdC) and daughters (Daughters of St. Mary of Providence- DSMP) of the same father, St. Louis Guanella celebrated the feast of Our Lady



of Divine Providence on the campus of Blessed Clare Nivas, Kothanuru on November 12th. Fr. Gabriel, vice-superior of the community, with Frs. James & Sunil presided over the Holy Eucharist. All the benefactors, well-wishers and good children in small numbers with precautionary methods were allowed to join the celebration. An agape meal brought the festivity to an end.

New Priests Visit

CUDDALORE - The new Servants of Charity priests celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Succor Church



on November 15th. Fr. A. Periyannayaga Samy, the parish priest, welcomed them for Sunday Mass on behalf of the parishioners. Fr. Praveen, a new priest, celebrated the holy Mass and Fr. Rajesh preached the homily. Before concluding Mass Fr. Francis, the Superior, thanked the new priests for their availability to celebrate the Mass and honored them each with a shawl. At the end of Mass Fr. A. Periyannayaga Samy invited the faithful to kiss the anointed hands of the new priests.

Mr. Raja's Feast Day

CUDDALORE - "Benjamin's are the treasurers of our home." Don Guanella Boys Home special student Mr. Raja celebrated his feast day on November 22nd, feast of Christ the King. The community confreres celebrated Mass and prayed for his future. Mr. Raja offered a delicious lunch at his own expense for everyone, even the Guanellian Sisters. He was very happy to celebrate his feast day with our boys. Fr. Francis, the superior, presented him a gift and our sisters honored him with a shawl. At the end he thanked God and everyone for his feast day celebration.



Celebrating with Sisters

CUDDALORE - The feast of the Mother of Divine Providence was celebrated at Divine Providence home on November 8th. The Don Guanella Boys Home



community and St. Joseph's Seminary community joined together and celebrated holy Mass and prayed for all the Guanellian sisters. The feast celebration was for the Guanellian Family who profoundly felt the words of our Founder, St. Louis Guanella. Sr. Josephine, community superior, thanked both the community's confreres for their valuable presence and their assistance in every moment. The celebration concluded with lunch.

Cyclone Causes a Flood

CUDDALORE - The very severe Cyclone Nivar hit the coast on Wednesday night, November 25th around 11:15pm. The storm crossed Cuddalore on November 26th



by early morning. It brought very heavy rainfall to the entire region. Cyclone Nivar mainly damaged the fish ponds, gardens and some of the trees (teak, neem and others) have fallen down completely

including the roots. The whole campus was flooded with water and it affected daily life for about two days.

Love We Have Shown To Others Is Eternal

THALAVADI - November is the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. In the Christian liturgical calendar, November is entirely devoted to the deceased. Our one prayer can release a soul's life into heaven. When we offer our prayers for the souls, it makes us here on earth smile. The Nazareth Illam community visited the nearby parish



cemetery, Soosaipuram, on November 6th where we offered three mysteries of the Rosary, during which we remembered and prayed for the departed souls from our congregation, families, forgotten souls and the souls of those who died due to covid-19. Our residents expressed their love and memorial prayers for the departed souls by visiting the cemetery. The souls which are no longer on earth are waiting for our prayers. Death is not an end but the beginning of a new life in a new place. Death of loved ones is painful and leaves a memory which cannot be stolen. Remembering those beautiful souls will strengthen those memories.

A Time of Hope and New Beginnings

THALAVADI - Diwali is the festival of lights which is



celebrated in various regions across India. The name Deepavali literally means an array of lights. To make the residents understand the importance of Diwali, Nazareth Illam had a celebration on November 14th which included many activities. The residents were taken to a Hindu Temple for worship and Diwali celebrations continued on the Nazareth Illam campus. The staff explained Diwali as a festival which spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. The residents also lit firecrackers. They were sparkling the light while cracking the fire. They were provided delicious meals and snacks. Everyone enjoyed the Diwali celebrations wholeheartedly.

In All Things ... Love

THALAVADI - Through God's power, individual men are made priests of Jesus Christ forever according to the order of Melchizedek. The priesthood appears as a gift to the whole Church and to the Congregation: particularly to the Servants of Charity. The ordination of new priests and the Holy Masses for which they were ordained remind us that Christ is still the head of His Church. The goal of the Church lies beyond this world that genuine Catholic fellowship is rooted in the sacraments. The Eucharist is truly the summit and source of Catholic life.



Nazareth Illam was indeed delighted to receive and honor our newly ordained priests. On November 22nd our newly ordained priests celebrated a thanksgiving Mass at Nazareth Illam. The new priests, Fr. Kulandaisamy, the vice provincial; and Fr. Benson, the rector of DGMS were warmly welcomed by our residents through flower bouquets. Fr. Arockiya Nathan was the main celebrant and Frs. Praveen and Bosco preached the homily. The Superior, Fr. Gnanaraj, honored and thanked them for their sacrifice. Frs. Loyola and Stalin presented them with gifts and after the holy Mass they enjoyed a sumptuous meal. The new priests thanked the community for the hospitality and warm welcome. The staff and residents actively prepared for and participated in the celebration.

On Your Mark ...

CHENNAI - The fourth year brothers, who have successfully completed their theological studies, started their second novitiate on November 10th. Fr. Provincial



presided over Mass, and in his homily he talked about the purpose and importance of the second novitiate. He then referenced formation and forming oneself with a good disposition. He congratulated and appreciated them for their availability. All the confreres prayed and congratulated them after Mass. In view of their preparation, an assortment of classes on the founder, scripture, communication skills, psychology and mission have been arranged in order to equip them in all facets of religious life and deepen their knowledge.

Advent Preparation

CHENNAI - The Chennai community had a day of recollection on November 27th in preparation for

Advent. The preacher was Fr. P. John Bosco of the Chengalpet diocese, parish priest of St. Paul the Hermit Church, Ramapuram, Chennai and scripture professor at SHS. He gave a wonderful talk on, “My Religious Commitment to Consecrated Life”. He used a PPT to enlighten participants through visual paradigms. In the core point of the talk he said, “Call is always for



discipleship, it calls for commitment and that makes the consecration of our life possible.” Next, the brothers prepared themselves in adoration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participated worthily in the holy Mass. The day was fruitful and ended with the agape meal

“Every Ending Has a New Beginning”

CHENNAI - The DGMS and DGSS community gave a heartfelt farewell to Bros. Melwin and William for their theological studies in Rome, Italy during the fraternal gather on November 27th. Bros Charles and Edward organized the evening with exciting games, including a trophy for the winners. At the end, Bros. Melvin and William expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the provincial council, formators and the community. Everyone expressed their oneness with them. The community superior expressed his heartfelt gratitude for their tireless service and support to the community. A movie and dinner brought the gathering to a close.



Month of Thankfulness

E. PROVIDENCE - The second graders at Sacred Heart School participated in a special devotion during the month of November. They said parts of the Rosary daily and for each prayer, a child said something he or she was thankful for. At the end of the month, the entire board was filled with the many things that have blessed their lives.



All Souls Prayer Service

CHELSEA- Since everyone is experiencing the pain and frustration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the day dedicated to the departed members of loved ones also had to be commemorated in a different way following restrictions and social distancing. The residents at St. Louis Center



had an indoor ceremony for the departed members on November 2nd led by Fr. Amal. During this ceremony the residents remembered

their loved ones who passed on. They each held a candle representing the soul of their departed loved one and said the names; remembering from scripture, "I have written your name in the palm of my hand" (Is 49,16). They also remembered the departed souls of the residents, staff, benefactors and friends of SLC. As a sign of surrendering their loved ones into the hands of the Lord they placed their candles around the altar.

Virtual Fall Fundraiser

CHELSEA- For the second time in a month, SLC held a "Virtual" fundraiser on Facebook Live and You Tube to support the 70 residents who call SLC home. This time, it was for their 33rd Annual Fall Auction November 7th. This event was held without the usual meal provided by the local hospital because of this year's COVID-19 pandemic, and was an online auction only. There were 16 lots up for bid featuring many desirable items. According to Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO of SLC, "We are grateful to the many people who participated in this online event to help support the needs of our residents. While we were disappointed about not being able to bring everyone

together for a formal dinner this year, the work we do is still important in God's eyes, so our efforts continue."

New Pastor Installed

E. PROVIDENCE - "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed," (Is 61,1).

On November 15th the new pastor of Our Lady of Loreto, Fr. Bernad SdC was officially installed by His Excellency Most Rev. Robert Evans, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Providence. Due to pandemic guidelines, a limited



number of faithful participated. The ceremony began with a procession followed by Holy Mass. In his homily, the Bishop spoke about the role of a pastor and the relationship with his parishioners. Fr. Silvio Denard, SdC, represented the Servants of Charity and Sacred Heart Parish. Rev. Jeremy Rodrigues, the Bishop's secretary prepared the Liturgy of the ceremony. DSMP sisters participated and people from Sacred Heart Parish added joy to the celebration by their presence. The Provincial, his council and Fr. A. C Peri, SdC, participated spiritually during this pandemic time. To close the celebration, Fr. Bernad gave a word of thanks to everyone present..

School Gives Thanks

E. PROVIDENCE - In order to help the children get into the spirit of the holiday, Fr. Peri offered

Thanksgiving Mass for the students of Sacred Heart School. The older students participated as altar servers and lectors. In his homily, Fr. Peri encouraged the



United States continued

children to always be thankful for the many gifts in their lives.

School Feeds the Hungry

E. PROVIDENCE - Each month throughout the school year, the students have a food drive for different items. During the month of November, the children collected over 1,000 boxes of macaroni and cheese! The students were particularly excited to bring in this item since so many of them enjoy this dish themselves. Mrs. Chalmers, the second grade teacher, packed up her car to take them to the local food pantry.



A Joyous First Communion

E. PROVIDENCE - One of Fr. Guanella's 'good children,' Ashley Rose Garcia, a 29 year-old parishioner of Sacred Heart, received her First Communion and Confirmation at a special Mass with her family on November 22nd. Fr. Silvio was the celebrant and due to the pandemic, administered the sacrament of Confirmation. Ashley was very happy to receive Jesus for the first time and her parents were delighted and thankful their daughter has been fully initiated into the Catholic Church.



Pictured are Ashley and her family who were in attendance for the Mass, along with Fr. Silvio and Fr. A.C. Peri.



December Calendar of Events

- 8 **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 15 **Chelsea: Residents**
Christmas Program - SLC
- 19 **Anniversary of the Birth of St. Louis Guanella**
Grass Lake: Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 20 **Anniversary of the Baptism of St. Luis Guanella**
- 24 **Vigil of the Nativity**
- 25 **Nativity of the Lord**
- 26 **St. Stephen, Martyr**
- 27 **St. John**
- 28 **The Holy Innocents**
- 30 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**



Best Wishes and Prayers to:

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

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