

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Let Your Light Shine Among Men

Dear Confreres,

You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished (VC 110).

As we begin this new month of February, what comes immediately to our mind is the 24th World Day of Consecrated Life instituted with the purpose of thanking the Lord for the gift of consecrated life in the Church, to promote the knowledge and esteem of it and to celebrate in order that the consecrated may return to the sources of their vocation.

It is very evident that this celebration of consecrated life is attached to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord because as Jesus is offered to God totally in the Temple, so also consecrated persons are called to make this complete offering of oneself. The feast of the Presentation of the Lord is symbolized with a procession with candles and it is also called Candlemas which in turn symbolizes Jesus as the light of the world, let your light of consecration shine among people to lead them to life.

Our Founder has shown us the path for the promotion of consecrated life. He would bring a group of persons with disabilities to a parish or place, highlighting their human dignity and innate goodness and propose to the people a vocation to serve God through them. I want to remind you at

this moment of the recommendation of the 20th General Chapter: In view of the re-organization of the pastoral vocation, we consider it important to involve all the confreres in the process of animation and to sensitize all to bear a joyful and credible witness to our consecrated life. We are however convinced of the relevance to create a greater collaboration of all the components of the Guanellian family, in order to guarantee an increased effective pastoral vocation and formative accompaniment. (20th GC. X)

Thus I invite all of you, especially vocation coordinators and superiors of the communities, to collaborate in this mission of proposing to people the call to Guanellian consecrated life.

Please continue to accompany with your prayers confreres, sisters and Co-operators who are sick and suffering.

Our Guanellian sisters are going to celebrate their 19th General Chapter from April 20th-29th. Please sustain them with your prayers.

Three Guanellian sisters will make their final profession on Feb. 22, 2020. Please keep them in your prayers.

Happy Feast Day

Fr. Ronald J, SdC
Provincial Superior

February Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1-3 **Cuddalore:** Visit St. Joseph Seminary
- 4 **Mysore:** Meet with Bishop
- 5 **Mysore:** Residence Visit
- 6-8 **Bangalore:** Community Visit
- 9 **Kuzhithurai:** Residence Visit
- 10 **Kuzhithurai:** Meet with Bishop
- 12 **Chennai:** Marriage Celebration
- 13 **Chennai:** Economy Commission Meeting
- 14-20 **Visit to other Communities**
- 22 **DSMP Assembly**
- 23 **Bangalore:** GC and GLM Meeting
- 24 **Chennai:** Treasurers Meet
- 26-March 5 **Plenary Council Meeting and Visit to Sri Lanka**

February 2020

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VC 110

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Begin Again – It's a New Morning

By Fr. Franklin Arockiadoss

C. S. Lewis once said, "Relying on God has to begin over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." Every morning is a fresh start; it invites everyone to renew themselves, to begin again. Each day, the world shows us a new face. The sky does not look like it did yesterday. Yesterday morning the sky was blue, and the sunrise was colorful; today, the sky was filled with clouds, and the sunrise was lost in never-ending gray. A week ago, there was a red sky, and the sun rose like a burning bush. On another day it was rainy and the sky spread a colorful rainbow. Look at the birds or hear them, happily singing, joyfully flying. Even the pets in our homes seem to have a new spirit every day. But for us humans, how does it look? Catherine Pulsifer says, "Every day is a chance to begin again." If a person fails to begin a fresh day, it means that he is going to have another day burdened with past knowledge and difficulties - not able to overcome anything, achieve anything. Life then becomes routine, monotonous, a living rut. To counter this, Meister Eckhart says, "Be willing to be a beginner every single morning." Only such willingness can lead the day to make a mark from the darkness. It is very easy for everyone to press the snooze button. If we do this, when will the day dawn? Because it is ...

New Every Morning

*Every day is a fresh beginning,
Listen my soul to the glad refrain,
And, spite old sorrows,
And older sinning,
Troubles forecasted
And possible pain,*

Take heart with the day and begin again.

Yes! Take heart with the day and begin again. These are the words of Susan Coolidge; the poem is comforting, forgiving, and hopeful. It starts off with the simple truth that every day is a new beginning, a fresh start, (another opportunity to put on Christ) with new possibilities and experiences. Every day is a new opportunity to grow and experience life. So, please "take heart with the day and begin again." Like the sky, sun and moon, our life is also fresh in the morning. What stops us from beginning again, to start all over, to breathe the new spirit? Is it our anxiety, anger, depression, confusion, or

any sort of yesterday's problems? If the answer is "yes", then we have forgotten to practice what St. Paul taught and failed to listen to St. Peter. St. Paul reminds of what we can do. He writes, "Let the sunset not find you still angry and do not give the devil a chance" (Eph 4:26-27). Do we go to bed with anger inside of us? If so, is it possible to sleep well? Do we have frightening dreams? Why? St. Peter warns us, "Keep alert, like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet 5:8). So, he is there, the devil who seeks to make sure that we don't begin well. It may be a new morning but not a fresh morning with a new spirit; the sunrise may be bright, but my heart is numb, the mind is disoriented, and the body is sleepy, drowsy. So, what to do?

St. Francis De Sales says, "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them - every day begins the task anew; be who you are and be that well." Never forget this - that you can only be yourself and not someone else.

Every morning is the world made new.

You who are weary of sorrow and sinning

Here is a beautiful hope for you,

A hope for me and a hope for you.

Today is a new day, new blessings

Newness is on your way to the new "YOU"

Yes! Today is not another day on your calendar; it is a new opportunity, a new chance, a new challenge, a new beginning; newness everywhere. We need to stand erect and embrace it. Become the reason for someone's smile today. Dwight Howard said "Today is a new day. Even if you were wrong yesterday, you can get it right today." Begin again, breathe fresh air, fill your hearts and minds with newness. Someone once said that if the sun comes up and I can see it, I have a chance to become victorious. You may have stumbled and struggled yesterday - but not today. Today you are going to make someone's life brighter. Making someone smile is part of our mission in life. Jesus did, the Apostles did, and all the Saints did - open your day imitating them and you can do it.

Here is the Handmaid of the Lord!

Homily of Mons. Paolo Ricciardi

Our Constitutions remind us that "through the Eucharistic sacrifice we participate in the paschal mystery of Christ and we are involved in the dynamics of His donation."

According to this, Mother Serena lived her life in communion with the immolated Lamb; she made an offering of her life throughout 50 years of generous correspondence to the grace of her vocation among the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence.

Born in Milan on June 26, 1947 and animated from her youth by a confident, enterprising, creative missionary spirit, she made the apostolic ideal of St. Louis Guanella her own and made it concrete, with competence and love, in all areas where Providence called her to serve.

She was directress of the center for the disabled "Santa Maria della Provvidenza" in Rome. The Spirit blows where He wants and He wanted her to form young Postulants, pioneer and become the first superior of the works in Romania and Superior General since 2010.

The experience of illness and suffering made her life more precious, like a pruned shoot to bear more fruit, and now that everything is done, Mother Serena is the broken bread "worthy of being presented before God, to angels and to everyone," according to the desire of our holy Founder.

Echoing all those who have known, loved and respected her, we extend our thanks to the Lord today for having given her to the Church, to the Guanellian Family and to each of us.

Jesus saw the large crowd, and took pity on them. Let us live this celebration with the gaze of Jesus that passes over us through the life and witness of Sr. Serena. It is an intense moment for those who are in pain and suffering, for the religious community and for the Church. This is the loss of a sister, a mother, a superior general but our human pain is inhabited by Christ, who is alive and present among us, and it is a redemptive suffering, giving voice to the resurrection and eternal life.

We are still in the days of the Epiphany, the mystery of light. Jesus is not hidden from us, on the contrary, He will always manifest Himself by giving us the certainty that we will never be alone. His compassion will not leave us empty-handed, but again He breaks bread for us, dividing it and sharing it because everyone can receive a piece of bread and He shows us the paternity of God through His filial and merciful heart.

The Providence of God never abandons us, even if things are lacking. Life itself and providence is at work; it is at the door and knocks as Fr. Guanella experienced many times, because we are never deprived of necessities. I would like to think of Mother Serena as one of Jesus' disciples called to distribute

the bread, educated by Jesus not to be afraid, but to have a gaze capable of always going further because "it is God Who does."

Like the hard-working and amazed disciples who saw the bread flowing out of his basket with so much left over, when God closes our life He always makes it abundant. God is love, He does justice to the poor and saves the children from misery.



Sr. Serena grew up in a family of faith which gave four vocations (three religious sisters and one priest) to the consecrated life. She has always experienced the beauty of being for God and the joy of fraternity and truly loving God. In response to her vocation, God guided the steps of her life by giving the courage necessary for those whom the world defines as the least but according to the Gospel are the first treasure of the Church. We think of her Guanellian gaze towards Africa, because the providential hands of God are never lacking in the needs of the world. I imagine that she also had moments of serenity and difficulty, strong friendships and human weaknesses, moments of intense faith in the spiritual

life, knowing that none of us presents ourselves perfect to God.

The few times I visited her sick room, I can say that I saw a consecrated person, ravaged by her illness, like everyone else but consumed for God in the sickness and in silence. As the psalm says, "I am silent, I do not open my mouth because You are acting." Sometime ago I re-read the words of St. John Paul II from 1994. After a one-month hospitalization, the Pope courageously closed the suffering like a higher Gospel. I feel that he understood that to lead the Church in the third millennium it required not only prayers and various initiatives, but suffering. I am also convinced that the Lord grants someone permission to lead a community or congregation even through suffering. God alone knows that Mother Serena resembled the suffering Christ in the last moment of her existence for our good and for the whole Church. As chicks under the wings of Divine Providence, we trust, even if we humanly ask ourselves why, but how do we not trust in Providence after seeing so many miracles.

I believe that the last sign that the Lord wanted to give to all of you sisters was taking Mother Serena precisely to begin the feast of the Epiphany, the day when Fr. Guanella asked to renew your vows. How beautiful it is that we are called to be consumed for Christ to the end. Let us remember that we cannot stop until as long as there are poor to help.

Sr. Serena was called to offer the gold of her consecrated life to God and to the poor; the incense of prayer united with life

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and her sufferings. Yes, we are called to always offer and to suffer if God wants.

In today's Gospel, St. John presents a boy who renounces his five loaves and two fish to give them to Jesus, yet how great his joy is. Perhaps Fr. Guanella felt the same when he and his sister prepared soup for the poor. Now Sr. Serena receives in abundance the left over pieces of bread and Paradise.

Death came to meet her as a mother, as Fr. Guanella expressed in an original way. A mother who comes and comforts her children, to encourage, to threaten the bad guys but always

death comes with the heart of a mother. As a mother she was attentive to her daughters in the formation work, the first superior in Romania and then as Superior General she waited for mother death. Looking at the mother of Providence, to Mary ... the time of death is terrible but Mary will be with us, if Mary does not abandon us we will be saved forever. What a Jubilee! Our home is Heaven. Now they have accepted dearest Mother Serena ... "you are welcomed by your family, by Fr. Guanella, Sr. Chiara and the poor, the little ones, the sick you have served here on earth. And one day we can be welcomed by you."



Tentative Animation Programs in the DPP

February 12-13	Economy Commission	Cuddalore
February 23	GLM, GC Annual Meeting	Bangalore
February 24	Treasurers Meeting	Chennai
February 27-March 1	5th Plenary Meeting	
March 2-6	Ongoing Formation	USA
March 10-11	Regents Meeting	Chennai
April 7	Skype Meeting	
April 2-4	Charism School - Temp. Professed	Chennai
April 13-30	Vocation Drive by Brothers	
April 15	Workers Meeting for Andhra	Koppaka
April 21-May 10	Language Preparation - Temp Professed	
April 22	Workers Meet for Bangalore, Thalavadi	Thalavadi
April 25	Perpetual Profession	Rome
April 26	Diaconate	Rome
May 5	Teaching Staff Meeting	Cuddalore
May 6	Domestic Workers Meeting	Cuddalore
May 7	Skype Meeting	
May 11-15; 18-22	Annual Retreat - Perpetually Professed	Mysore
May 18-22	Retreat for Novices	
May 18-23	Annual Retreat - Temp. Professed	
May 26	Renewal of Vows	
May 31	First Profession	
TBD	GYM Annual Meeting	
TBD	Vocation Camp	Cuddalore
TBD	Vocation Camp	Bangalore
After Easter	Vocation Camp	Koppaka
TBD	Vocation Camp	North India
June 17	Chelsea 60th Anniversary	USA
June 3	6th Plenary Meeting	USA
TBD	Assembly	USA

New Year Celebration

BANGALORE - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated the New Year 2020 on the feast of Mary, Mother of God with Mass surrounded by the Catholic faithful who are daily Mass goers at our chapel. The Masses were in two languages. The first mass



was in English at 9:30 am, presided by Fr. Adaikalam and con-celebrated by Fr. Kulandaisamy. At 11:00 am, Mass was celebrated in Tamil by Fr. Kulandaisamy with Fr. Adaikalam and Fr. Gabriel as con-celebrants. Since we are entering the New Year, as a thanksgiving to God, before each Mass people had the chance to attend solemn Holy Adoration in two languages creatively conducted by Fr. Kulandaisamy. The faithful who gathered for the event numbered about 1000. At the end there was distribution of New Year cakes and badam milk.

Religious Ed Students Visit Special School

KULITHURAI - The visit to a home is a life changing experience as it is filled with emotions and sentiments. The Louis Guanella group of Cherukole catechism went to Thamaraikulam Home for Special Children



run by DSMP sisters to learn about our mission. They carried with them toiletry articles for the children. The visit to the home was a good experience for everyone; they came back with not only memories but also some valuable lessons.

Inter-Novitiate Meet

BANGALORE - The inter-novitiate meet was held at Guanella Preethi Nivas from January 5th-9th. About 80 novices from the Hennur region were gathered from

the different novitiate houses each day 9:00am-4:00pm. The resource person was Fr. Gabriel (OFM). He led them very successfully on the topic, "Psychosexual Integration." The president, Fr. Adaikalam, welcomed and introduced the resource person to the whole gathering. It was a great privilege to have the novices in our community.

A Tamil New Year Celebration

CHENNAI - The Don Guanella Special School family joyfully held the Tamil New Year celebration known as Pongal Festival on January 13th. The program commenced with hearing of God's word,



followed by prayer and prayer song. Fathers, teachers, students and parents came in their traditional dress and exhibited joy and pride as they filled the campus with the land's cultural atmosphere. Pongal was prepared by cooking rice in an earthen pot in front of the school on a stove made of bricks. When the milk boiled and overflowed we enjoyed shouting "pongalo-pongalo". The highlight of the event was the rangoli and pongal cooking contest. Fr. Periyanyagam, Fr. Ananadhan, Fr. Michael tasted pongal and scored each of the four groups. Traditional games were also conducted for the parents, children and staff. To end the celebration participants were given prizes before they went home with many sweet memories.

Yesuvanam Home for Adults



THALAVADI - We are indeed happy to announce that Yesuvanam has begun with another new program: an adult MR Home. Mr. P. Saravana Kumar DDAWO, Sivagangai cut the ribbon and opened the building. He handed over a copy of the government order to the superior, Fr. Peter Sebastian. The renovated Anbagam building offers rooms for 40 adult MR and space for vocational activities. At present there are 15 adult MR clients who stay and participate in the activities such as floor mat weaving, candle making, chicken nursery, jewelry making, and handicrafts.

Pongal Celebration

KULITHURAI - On January 15th the Church of Cherukole and Kattuvilai was decorated with sugar cane and kolam to celebrate the Pongal feast of Thanksgiving. Milk was boiled in earthen pots and allowed to spill over and pongal rice was cooked. After



holy Mass there was a special Pongal sports meet. It was a day of celebration and rituals to thank God for the blessings He bestowed upon us and His creatures.

A Tamil Festival

THALAVADI - The Tamil Pongal Festival lights the joy



in every heart, and to prove it once again, on January 15th Nazareth Illam was full of joy as we celebrated. Early in the morning, all of us dressed in the new traditional Tamil clothes: dhoti and Saree. Then we started cooking

Pongal with the special invitees, Fr. Robert, the Salesian community superior and sisters from St. Ann's of Providence, Thiginarai. We also held competitions like Pongal cooking, Kolam Potti and Uriadithal, with the participation of the residents divided into four groups. To show our solidarity to our Hindu residents, we went to the Bannari Temple. The day came to an end as all enjoyed eating Karumbu (Sugarcane).

Boys Home Celebrates Pongal

KRISHNAPERI - On January 15th we celebrated



Pongal at St. Paul's Boys Home and Veeramamunivar High School. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. S. P. Samy in a traditional Indian way. Fr. Vincent preached the homily. Fr. Kanikai Raj blessed the pongal. After that we conducted traditional games like Rangoli, Kabadi, pot breaking, coco match and dances. Fr. Vanathiyen gave a short message about pongal. Prizes were distributed to those who won the games. Sweet Pongal and sugar cane was served to all the boys, sending them home with smiling faces.

Pongal with Special Children

CHENNAI - As a sign of being part of mission and feeling one family, the Guanellian Lay Movement celebrated Pongal festival with the children on January 11th at Don Guanella Special School. We decorated the campus with colorful rangoli and sugarcane stood



on the surface. The celebration started with prayer. We cooked pongal and distributed it to everyone. Mr. Joe conducted traditional games like pot breaking and rope pulling and prizes were distributed to the winners. They provided a sumptuous lunch for all of our children. As gratitude we honoured them with shawl and memento.

Guanellians Celebrate Pongal

CUDDALORE - The Don Guanella Boys Home community celebrated Pongal with the special people. The day started with holy Mass and Fr. Lourduraj, the director, organized sports and a few party games for the boys and special ones. The boys made the day more joyful with their cultural program. The Guanellian Lay



Movement family came over and prepared delicious sweet pongal for everyone. Fr. Lourduraj organized the popular traditional pongal games and so the students participated in the Tamil traditional pot breaking celebration and rope pulling game. At the end of the day everyone thanked God for His benevolence and recited the holy Rosary.

Festival of Farmers

CHENNAI - January remains a special and unique month for many but in particular for the farmers, because this is the month where the state gratefully thanks them through the celebration of harvest known as Pongal in Tamil Nadu. This is a three-day celebration where each day has its significance and history to be greatly spoken of. January 17th was the day Don Guanella Major Seminary gathered as one



community to celebrate Pongal Festival, a thanksgiving ceremony for the year's harvest by the farmers in Tamil Nadu. The confreres and seminarians celebrated Mass in which they thanked the Lord for all His generosity.

Family Pongal Celebration

BANGALORE - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated Pongal on January 19th with Don Guanella Oratory, GYM, GC, GLM as a family. We also conducted games for children like rope pulling, Kabadi and breaking the pot. We prepared Pongal with three pots and served everyone Pongal and sugar cane.



Mission Experience

BANGALORE - On January 20th the seven novices from Guanella Preethi Nivas and their novice master went for a one week mission experience with mentally ill patients at Thalavadi named "Nazareth Illam." This challenging mission is aided by the government. Right now there are 70 residents. These neglected and unwanted ones of society are brought from the roads, streets and bus stops by social workers and government



officials like the collector, village officer, police etc.

The Guanellian Fathers are rehabilitating them with immense love, medication and care free of charge. They organize various programs, games, therapy and other activities for their rehabilitation. In fact this mission has brought a popular identity of our institute to the district. The novices were given a warm welcome and direction

by the superior, Fr. Gnanaraj, on how to understand them and serve them.

Henceforth the Novices had a fruitful time serving the residents. The novices animated them in the manual work



of building the compound wall, prayers, Eucharist, entertainment, cooking, feeding and exercises. Novices gave haircuts, shaved them and arranged their beds. The Novices also listened to their stories, problems, and their family backgrounds. This attentive, empathetic listening enriched both. Novices were enriched by the quality service given to them so meticulously. After the experience, the Novices returned to GPN with immense satisfaction and valuable learning.

Marian Pilgrimage

THALAVADI - The staff of Nazareth Illam deserve more respect and appreciation for their tireless work for the mentally ill patients. As a token of appreciation



and to have a moment of joy as a family, a pilgrimage to Marian shrines was organized for January 22nd-23rd.

In two days, we visited Velankanni and Poondi.

We are thankful to the respective shrine rectors who made the necessary arrangements. The trip was very impactful; as we prayed together, shared our time as a family and strengthened the relationship amongst the staff.

Celebration with Alumni

CUDDALORE - The pioneer students, alumni, gathered at Don Guanella Boys Home on January 26th, Republic Day. Fr. Lourduraj, the director, celebrated Mass and animated the program of the day. The former students were so happy to return and shared their past experiences with emotional feeling. They all testified that DGBH motivated them to have a bright future in

their present life. Our boys performed their cultural program to make the day more colorful for all. After these programs the alumni ate lunch and played a volleyball game with the boys in remembrance of their golden days.



Faith Formation Competition

KULITHURAI - Faith formation is an immediate need of every child. On realizing the need of the hour on January 26th, different competitions were conducted in the vicariate of Mulagumudu.

The catechism children participated in many competitions like mime group song, action song, and Oyilattam dance. Our parish earned three first prizes and two second prizes. Our substation won three



second prizes and two third prizes. These competitions in fact strengthen the confidence of children and pave a way to display their creativity.

Inaugural Function for the Laity

DINDIGUL - January 26th was an important mile stone in the history of St. Antony's Church, Kallathupatti. The Guanellian family was colored with the GLM when 30



people joined their helping hands to the Guanellian mission. Our Guanellian sisters from Dindigul Vadapatti represented the meeting. CIC sisters from St. Antony's College, Sr. Margaret and Sr. Pramila, the principal, also participated in the first GLM meeting at Kallathupatti.

Republic Day Celebration

CUDDALORE - The 71st Republic day was celebrated at our boys home on January 26th in the morning. Sr. Regina Mary, Mother Superior of Sacred Heart Model school convent, Pudupalayam, and Mrs. Helen Rani, Program Consultant of Relationship Foundation from Pondicherry, were the chief guests for the day. The students held a Republic Day parade inside the campus and afterwards the leader guided everyone to recite the oath of our nation. Sr. Regina hoisted the national flag. Sr. Regina and Mrs. Helen Rani gave their address mentioning our national leaders' hard work and their



sufferings. The students demonstrated a pyramid to display their talents.

Celebrating the Constitution

KRISHNAPERI - On January 26th, India's 71st Republic Day was celebrated at Veeramamunivar High School. It is the day to commemorate when India's constitution came into force on January 26, 1950, completing the country's transition toward becoming an independent republic. On that day, the special chief guest was local panchayat president Mrs. Vinothini. Then Fr. Vincent, SdC, the correspondent, gave a short message about Republic Day. The Indian constitution speaks about justice, equality and fraternity. The program also included parades, student speeches, cultural dances and distribution of sweets.



71st Republic Day

THALAVADI - The largest democratic country in the world, India, celebrated its 71st Republic Day. The



Nazareth Illam Community arranged a flag hoisting ceremony to mark the special day with Salesian Fathers from Manikandam, Trichy, as the special guests. The event started with a parade inside the campus in honor of the national flag. Bro. Arockiadoss, SdB, hoisted the flag followed by singing of the national anthem. Fr. Benedict, SdB, addressed the gathering in which he promoted patriotism and encouraged the residents. Fr. Gnanaraj, the superior, thanked the gathering to end the celebration.

Therapy Programs Expanding

CHELSEA - St Louis Center was thrilled to be able to add specialty services to the children's program. Tammy Ratz, MA, has joined us as the trauma therapist. Tammy has 30 years' experience working with children with IDD and trauma, and is a welcome addition to our staff. Dr. Martha Hashimoto, MD, is providing psychiatric services to residents in the children's program. She will be coming directly to St. Louis Center to see the children. For the past year, Kristen Hjelmstad, BCBA, has been providing Applied Behavioral Analysis behavior plans to the children with autism. We received a small grant to expand the music therapy program so that we will now be providing music therapy to all children and adult residents. The canine therapy program has also expanded, so that we are able to provide an additional therapy dog visit each month.



Tammy Ratz



Kristen Hjelmstad

Pennies for Patients

E. PROVIDENCE - The students of Sacred Heart School are participating in Pennies for Patients. This is a program to raise money for Leukemia and Lymphoma



Society. But it is more than just fundraising; there is a STEM curriculum to help the students learn some of the science behind the disease and treatments. The students hope to raise \$2,020! Please follow this link to make your contribution today: <https://bit.ly/373Hm0E>

Marriage Begins with Service

CHELSEA - Planning a wedding takes a lot of time and effort with so many details to remember. Weddings usually also mean gifts and bridal showers complete with probably more stuff than you need. So for Jenny and Matt Mackey, who were married on December 29, 2019, they knew that they wanted to do things a bit differently. Jenny reached out to St. Louis Center to make her gift registry a shopping list for the needs of the SLC residents. She also had a 'Giving Tree' at the reception to encourage

cash donations. The new bride had this to say about their decision:

"Weddings are such a 'pomp and circumstance' these days. I fear people have lost the focus of what the true purpose is. We had a special wedding blessing said over us during our wedding mass (I had never heard of this but the priest said it... maybe it's common) and part of it included, 'May you always bear witness in the world to God's charity, so that the afflicted and the needy who have known your kindness may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.'"



WOW! Can you imagine the glory of a reception like that?! How can that not inspire you to reach out and help everyone who needs it?! To someday be able to see the impact you've made without even knowing?!"

Marrying Matt, who's in a slightly more public eye than others, (being the director of campus ministry for a teenage population....) we have taken this great privilege to be an example.

We do our best to set an example with self control, prayerfulness, generosity.... and just every virtue we can. We are constantly out done by others. But wouldn't it be great to spread the message of how more marriages can start with an act of service?"

On New Years Eve, they brought all of the gifts to SLC. They knew that they would get to see the residents and play a bit of floor hockey. What they didn't know is that they would be greeted by enthusiastic athletes, wedding cupcakes and a custom made poster of 'Congratulations'. Their seemingly small act of generosity turned a long quiet holiday into a joy filled afternoon of laughter and fun. It was a day that the SLC residents will remember for a long time and one that the newlyweds will never forget.

Catholic Schools Week

E. PROVIDENCE - Catholic Schools Week at Sacred Heart School was a special celebration every day! Some

of the events included: Crazy Hair Day, Volunteer Appreciation Day, Jersey Day, Administration and Teacher Appreciation Days, Pajama Day, and lots more. There was a special volleyball game between the teachers/staff and the 7th and 8th Graders.



Fr. Peri and Fr. Bernad joined the teachers for the game. Everyone who played had a great time, and the rest of the school community enjoyed watching and cheering on their 'side.' After a well-fought fight, the teachers/staff won both games!



February Calendar of Events

- 2 **Presentation of the Lord**
- World Day of Consecrated Life**
- 4 **Anniversary of the Death of Mother Marcellina Bosatta (1934)**
- 8 **Chelsea: Vocational Retreat for Boys**
- 11 **Our Lady of Lourdes**
- World Day of the Sick**
- Chelsea: Pasta Dinner with the Priests**
- 12 **Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day-PUSJ**
- 19 **Grass Lake: Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ**
- 20 **Chelsea: Pasta Dinner with the Priests**
- 22 **The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle**
- 25 **Anointing of the Sick of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1887)**
- 26 **Ash Wednesday**

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. George: birthday**
- 2 **Fr. Kannikai Raj: feast day**
- 4 **Fr. John Paul Britto, Fr. T. Anandhan, Fr. Arul, Nov. Arul Pandian R.: feast day**
- 10 **Fr. Kuriakose A.: birthday**
- 11 **Fr. Arun, Fr. Jesu Doss, Fr. Johnson, Fr. Kumar, Fr. Paul Dhinakaran, Fr. Rambabu, Fr. Suresh, Fr. Thambu Samy: ordination day; Fr. Anthony Lourduraj S., Fr. Lourduraj C.: feast day**
- 12 **Fr. Soosai Rathinam: ordination day**
- 14 **Fr. Amalorpavanathan R.: birthday**
- 15 **Fr. Silvio DeNard: birthday**
- 19 **Fr. Sagayaraj S.: birthday**
- 23 **Bro. Arul Pandian: birthday**
- 24 **Fr. Chandra Nevis, Fr. Aputharaj J.: birthday**
- 25 **Fr. Francis S.: birthday**



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