

# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



## Logic at a Crossroads

The tradition of mother Church dedicates the month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This year it was kicked off with a direct message from the Pontiff appealing to human logic. Commenting on the multiplication of bread from the Gospel of St. Matthew 14 13-21, he has catechised the whole of humanity to go beyond human logic and look for God's logic – taking responsibility of others. In a moment when we



*“There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.”*

Mt 14,16

find it difficult to take responsibility for ourselves by escapism, listing out excuses for commissions and omissions, the Holy Father goes along with the attitude of Jesus who asked His disciples to give the people something to eat, but not with their human logic which would have asked the people to be sent away, the challenge and pain to be removed at the very sight of it.

“Compassion is not purely material sentiment, true compassion is suffering with and taking upon ourselves the pain of others. Jesus' compassion and tenderness is the concrete manifestation of love that cares about people's needs,” underlined the Pope. This is the explicit path our founder trailed in his life. It is a direct and incessant intervention in aid of the weaker brothers and sisters: from the workers and orphaned children

to the elderly, to the sick, but above all to those who were abandoned by everyone, considered irrecoverable, second-choice humanity, deficient, often fooled as unable to provide for themselves. For these he has a real predilection by considering them almost the treasures of his houses and calls them 'good children' (Saggi Storici 10, page.43).

The saints we are going to celebrate this month especially St. John Vianney, St. Augustine, St. Pius X, St. Maximilian Kolbe are known for taking responsibility for others, whose missions were considered impossible and unrealistic. Let us take care of those entrusted to us by Divine Providence starting with our confreres in our local communities and venture beyond to embrace broken humanity and the needy brethren wherever we are present.

August 2020

Volume 13 Number 8

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for making efforts to reach your particular communities in spite of the lockdown and difficulties of transportation and wish you a great start for this new scholastic year with enthusiasm and hope.

I recommend to your prayers for Mr. Rosario, the brother of our confrere Rev. Fr. Ligory who is under dialysis and for all his family members. Also I request your prayers for Mr. Samson the brother of our confrere Rev. Fr. David Anburaj who is hospitalized with COVID-19.

We continue to keep in our prayer the new-born Stella Maris Delegation and express our solidarity and fraternity to all its members and wish them God's blessings.

Two of our confreres Bro. Melvin and Bro. William were given permission by the General Council to do their sacred Theology studies in Rome and we wish them a pleasant stay there.

*When 'i' is replaced with 'we', even illness becomes wellness!*

*Fr. Ronald J, SdC*  
Provincial Superior

### INSIDE:

Provincial	2
India	3-6
United States	7
Calendar	8

## Finding Happiness and Building Relationship During the Pandemic

By Fr. Franklin, SdC

Finding happiness under fraught circumstances and building relationships while people are quarantined can be very challenging. Is it possible to be happy and build a relationship during the pandemic? Some new surveys say today's people are the unhappiest they have been in 50 years. Isolation of individuals makes it all the more difficult for them to find happiness and joy, especially for the elderly. Because of this, our beloved Pope Francis has invited the young to reach out tenderly to the elderly by doing something concrete for those "who are most alone in their homes or retirement residences, and who have not seen their loved ones for months."

Pope Francis invited the young to use the inventiveness of love - making telephone calls, video calls, sending messages, listening to them, and, where possible, in compliance with the healthcare rules, visiting them as well. It is important to send them an assurance that they are loved.

They are your roots. An uprooted tree cannot grow; it cannot blossom or bear fruit. This is why the bond and connection with your roots is important. An Argentinian poet said, "The blossom of a tree comes from what it has underground." Therefore, appreciate and grow in relationships with the elderly because they are your grandparents or grand uncles or aunts; engage them, entertain them - it will make them stronger. In this way, building relationships during the pandemic will not only make them happy; it will make you happy as well.

Social scientists say that our propensity for happiness is genetic; in fact, our intentions and actions influence up to 40% of our personal well-being. It is our interactions with others and the extent which we believe our lives have meaning that most determines our happiness.

Ancient philosophers and contemporary scientists agree that connecting with people is truly important. Aristotle said that "without friends, no one would want to live, even if he/she possessed all other goods." Accepting the Pope's invitation, friendship could be extended to all, whether within the family or outside the family or beyond the normal circle of relationships. Someone said that "human friendship is a sign of divine friendship given to us in Christ." It follows, then, that one cannot stop building relationships, but must work to transform relationships into friendships.

Even if we find ourselves alone, perhaps in quarantine, during the pandemic, we must not deprive ourselves of

social interaction. Today, we're fortunate that we have so much technology which we can use to connect with people who aren't nearby. Now is also the time to look out for our loved ones who may not know how to use these technologies. We must make sure they're not left out or isolated. We can also use this as an opportunity to provide our grandparents, next-door elderly neighbors, or those who live in health care centers with these technologies and how to use them so that they can connect with their loved ones.



The early centuries of Christianity were filled with much suffering; people were often in isolation, hiding, running, shedding tears and blood for their faith. People were beheaded, thrown to the lions, crucified, burnt alive, or ostracized and forced into exile. Yet, in the midst all these crises, our ancestors in faith never failed to build relationships, spread the faith,

baptize people, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, bury the dead, and continually demonstrate Christ's merciful love - even in the face of mortal danger. All these were possible for them because of the relationship they had developed with Christ. Among the many martyrs, St. Lawrence was something special (August 10th is his feast day). The emperor Valerian had ordered Deacon Lawrence to be burned alive, in public, on a great griddle. The griddle was prepared with hot coals beneath it and Lawrence was placed on it. The witnesses recorded the public martyrdom. The deacon cheerfully offered himself to the Lord Jesus and even joked with his executioners saying, "I am well done on this side; turn me over." Where can we see such faith today? Those days were much worse than our pandemic. Though they were often forced to hide, and be constantly on the move, they never failed to do their duty of building the Kingdom of God. Even when people had to, they embraced death cheerfully, encouraged everyone to remain focused on the kingdom of God - proclaiming it with their lives.

Human friendship is a sign of divine friendship given to us in Christ. We all have the right to enjoy such friendship and encourage others to cherish it in their lives. The feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord and the Assumption of our Blessed Mother will give us greater courage to build these relationships, change this pandemic situation, and bless us - encouraging us to be firm in our faith.

### A Month Dedicated to the Precious Blood

**BANGALORE** - On July 1st the Guanella Preethi Nivas community dedicated the month of July to the Precious Blood of Jesus. During the daily Eucharistic celebration they prayed especially for the whole world. Also the prayer for Consecration to the Precious Blood of Jesus is prayed by the faithful in adoration.



### Feast of St. Thomas

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated the solemnity of St. Thomas together with the faithful in a Eucharistic celebration on July 3rd. The day included the usual feast day celebrations.



### The Owner's Birthday

**CUDDALORE** -Mr. Raja has been at Don Guanella Boys' Home for the past sixteen years as an owner and working as a warden and dean for the growth of the boys. As our Founder says, "Beneficiaries are the owners of our institutions." Likewise Mr. Raja (who is slightly disabled) is an owner of our DGBH. The Guanellian family (Confreres and Sisters) joyfully acknowledged his birthday on Tuesday, July 7th. Fr. A. Periyayaga Samy celebrated holy Mass in the DGBH chapel. Lunch was served for everyone after Mass' arranged by Raja himself. Fr. Lourduraj, the Director, animated the cultural program, making sure everyone enjoyed the singing and dancing performance of Mr. Raja. Fr. Adaikalam, the Superior of St. Joseph's Seminary, and



Sr. Josephine, Superior of Divine Providence Home, honored him with a shawl and flower bouquet. Fr. Francis, the Superior offered him a special gift. At the end of the celebration, Mr. Raja thanked all the fathers and sisters mentioning that it was the first time he celebrated his birthday without the boys.

### A Good Beginning

**CHENNAI** - The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the lives of ordinary people, irrespective of nation or culture. But one thing that remains normal around the world is the search for food by the poor. As we know there are new assignments for the communities in the Divine Providence Province and some of the confreres are traveling to their respective communities. On July 11th Fr. Anandhan took charge as the director of Don Guanella Special School, while Fr. Micheal became the



administrator of DGSS. Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Anandhan and Fr. Michael gave the homily. Everyone wished them all the best for their new ministry in the DGMS Community.

### Theology Brothers Arrive

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community welcomed Bros. Sachin Son and Philomin Raja, who, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Chennai, had to stay

in Bangalore. They actively participated in community life by mingling with the confreres in all the works possible. The GPN community has been truly blessed to have these two senior brothers amidst the junior brothers as role models.

### Birthday of Our Father

**CHENNAI** - July 11th was the birthday celebration of Fr. Benson, our Superior and Rector. It was a festive day in fact with colorful decorations on the notice board and in the chapel. He presided over the Holy Eucharist and gave a beautiful homily, thanking everyone for their love and support towards him and the community at the end of the mass. During lunch, Fr. Benson cut the cake and once again expressed words of appreciation to the community for making the day a memorable one.



### Recollection for Confreres

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community had their Monthly recollection on July 12th. Fr. Peter Joseph, SdC gave a wonderful reflection during the half day recollection and heard confession. With Benediction at the close of adoration the recollection ended.



### Thy Will Be Done

**CHENNAI** - The Chennai Community and the Provincialate House made a monthly recollection on



July 14th. Fr. Tom, OMI, celebrated the Holy Eucharist for us and gave a talk. In his talk he explained about pain in different lives. We undergo pain first and are grateful to God for the sufferings. Like mother Mary we must say to God, "Thy will be done." He highlighted that we must also partake in the sufferings of others; we must not be depressed in religious life; and we must thank God even when we are misunderstood by others. After Mass there was time to share a meal and unstructured togetherness.



### Rabbit Shed Under Construction

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community decided to build a rabbit shed. The project got underway on July 15th and is coming along well. The brothers of philosophy and theology helped as much as they were able to, given their online class schedule. The regents spent their time usefully in this construction work with the community fathers.



### First In and First Out

**CHENNAI** - July 16th was both a day of joy and a day of sadness. Fr. Lourdu Raj who was the director of Don



Guanella Special School was given a sendoff after his service in the community for seven years. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Lourdu, during which he thanked the community and the superior. A program was organized to commemorate his departure. The community also welcomed Fr. David as the Assistant Director of the DGSS. After the program a meeting was held to officially hand over the leadership. Fr. Benson thanked Fr. Lourdu for his tireless work in developing DGSS.

### A Brother's Birthday

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated the birthday of Bro. Philomin Raja, SdC with the entire community on July 20th. There was a cake cutting during supper and the junior confreres felicitated him in their native language. We prayed for Father and his companions during the morning Mass.



### Installation of New Community

**CUDDALORE** - On July 24th Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, installed Fr. Adaikalam as the Superior and Rector of St. Joseph's Minor Seminary community during the Holy Mass which was presided over by the new Superior. He also installed other confreres by reading their appointment and encouraging them

in their future ministries. Fr. Antony Xavier will be the vice superior and administrator, Fr. Ligory will be the spiritual director and Fr. Jeyaseelan will be the fulltime vocation promoter and youth director in the community. During Mass the new superior made



his profession of faith and promise of fidelity and signed at the altar. The nearby community fathers and Guanellian sisters took part in this joyful celebration, praying and wishing them well. The previous team was acknowledged and thanked for all their contributions, hardwork and commitment. The new team has taken charge of forming the seminarians, the future priests and gifts of God to our congregation, through their life example and faithful formation program.

### Sharing Sorrow

**CUDDALORE** - The Guanellian confreres at St. Joseph Minor Seminary invited Don Guanella Boys Home confreres and the local Guanellian sisters to celebrate the 30th day Mass and celebration of life for the soul



of Mrs. Fathima, the mother of Fr. Antony Xavier. He lost his father recently and now this was indeed an unbearable loss for him. Due to COVID-19 no priests could attend the funeral, and making things worse Mass was not allowed for her funeral. He was indeed broken-hearted, so on this day it was a surprise

for him that many confreres gathered to mourn with him in his irrecoverable loss. Fr. Antony Xavier, who is the newly appointed administrator of our seminary celebrated the Mass and Fr. Arockiaraj gave the homily on a Mother's love. At the end of Mass Fr. Xavier shared about the love of his mother and the good values that he learned from her, a touching moment for everyone. After Mass there was time for agape.

### Praying for the Suffering

**VATLURU** - Pope Francis said, "Do not be afraid. The Lord will not leave us at the mercy of the storm." At the same time, he calls us "to be converted and change our



way of life." We are also at the sentiment of His Holiness Pope Francis. It is our own brothers and sisters who are suffering and dying due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our innate responsibility to pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world. As our Father and Founder St. Louis Guanella says, "the whole world is our homeland," and "the suffering ones in the world are our brothers and sisters." Therefore, the Guanella Karunalya community offered them especially to the healing hands of our Lord during a special Holy Hour of Adoration and Rosary. It is our Mother who intercedes for her children in the time of trial and sufferings. She knows our suffering and difficulties. As a result we offered all the sick and suffering to the loving arms of our Lady of Divine Providence. We also offered all the parishioners, the Boys home children, aged people and everyone who is in need.

### A Warm Welcome

**CUDDALORE** - On July 30th St. Joseph Seminary was jubilant due to the arrival of Fr. Jayaseelan, the newly appointed confrere. For the occasion they invited Don Guanella Boys Home confreres, DSMP Sisters and GC representative for Mass and the official welcoming of the new confrere. He was solemnly welcomed with a shawl, flowers and felicitation songs. It was a meaningful

celebration with Fr. Francis, Provincial Councillor, giving an introduction and Fr. Adaikalam, the new superior of the seminary, welcoming Fr. Jayaseelan by giving him a lighted candle, which symbolizes the prosperity he will bring to the community. After the felicitation program, lunch was served. Father has an important duty to the seminary and to the province as a fulltime vocation promoter and youth minister.



### Student Test Results

**CUDDALORE** - In India it is common knowledge that all students are passed only by Government suggestion. The Don Guanella Boys' Home community congratulated the Eleventh and Twelfth students all of whom passed on all their papers and they scored high marks in all subjects. We congratulate the Director Fr. Lourduraj, the warden Mr. Rufus Barnabas, and Mr. Ananadass for their hard work and encouragement.

“Jesus my dear,  
I want to be near  
to be able to hear  
what is good for my  
ear.” Eugenio, GC

### St. Louis Center July COVID Update

**CHELSEA-** The St. Louis Center COVID-19 campus lockdown continued through the month of July, and the residents and staff remain free from the virus so far. The spread of the virus in the State of Michigan has continued, however thankfully the number of deaths from the pandemic has slowed. As of August 1st, there have been 80,887 confirmed cases in Michigan since the outbreak, and 6,191 confirmed deaths attributed to the virus.

With the latest Governor’s order, the campus lockdown will continue until 11:59 p.m. September 30, 2020, and staff will continue to have their temperatures checked upon entry and continue to wear face masks while on duty. Employees with potential symptoms from this virus must stay home and self-quarantine. Hand sanitizer and hand washing remain a requirement throughout the day for personal safety.

We continue to pray for the Lord’s guidance and protection for our residents and staff, and hope for a vaccine to be approved by the end of this year.

### “Virtual” Memorial Golf Outing

**CHELSEA** - The old saying goes that, “when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade,” and that’s what the staff of St. Louis Center did on Saturday, July 18th in holding its first ever “virtual” fundraiser for the 33rd Annual Memorial Golf Outing. As a result, a large number of participants donated to provide SLC with a needed financial boost.

Since SLC supporters were unable to come together for a traditional golf outing, they were asked to do one of three things. 1) Golf nine holes with a foursome on any course and send in their score, 2) Walk a mile with their team and send in their time, or 3) grab a cold beverage, write a check and send it in the mail. The idea was to get people excited about supporting the residents of SLC by having a good time with friends and giving to a needy cause.

According to Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO of SLC, “COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of nearly all of our fundraisers during the first half of 2020, and since one third of SLC’s \$7 million budget is reliant on community support, this

year’s Memorial Golf Outing on July 18th was a crucial way for us to raise money.”

Participants in the event had to report their results by 3:00 p.m. on July 18th, and the Development

and PR Departments combined forces to sponsor a live “Event’s Show at the 19th Hole” at 5:00 p.m. on Facebook, where participants could see their results in real



time. Development staff even concocted a “crazy pants” contest where people were judged by the most outlandish pants they could wear on a golf course. During the show, viewers watched SLC residents play putt-putt golf on a course designed by the Maintenance crew, watched a tribute to the late Jerry D’Adamo of Northville, received a “thank you” from a family member, and saw the final scores posted on the screen.

### COVID Communion

**E. PROVIDENCE** - 2020 has been quite the year. It has forced us to change the way we do many things, especially gather with others, shop, and most especially how we worship. Sacred Heart Church has been doing its best to provide families with as much spiritual



nourishment as possible and to make the annual events special albeit in different ways than everyone is used to. One of those occasions is First Reconciliation and First Communion. This year’s cohort included 20 children who met the Lord in the Eucharist on July 26th, but not before they adequately

prepared their souls by receiving the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, July 25th. During the Holy Communion Mass the children were invited to enter the sanctuary area, but had to remain at a distance as they witnessed the miracle of the Eucharist up close and personal with Fr. Silvio celebrating and, Fr. Peri and Fr. Bernad concelebrating.





## August Calendar of Events

- 5 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
- 6 Transfiguration of the Lord
- 12 Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
- 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cuddalore: Independence Day Flag Hoisting - SJS
- 19 Chelsea: Dad & Lad Outing to Benefit - SLC  
Grass Lake: St. Joseph Day- PUSJ
- 21 St. Pius X, Pope
- 22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle
- 29 The Passion of St. John the Baptist

## Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 Fr. Alphonse Maria Ligory C.: feast day
- 5 Fr. Bakthiswalagan: birthday; Fr. Nevis: feast day
- 6 Bro. Periyanyagam M.: birthday; Fr. Abiraham, Fr. Amalorpavanathan R., Fr. Anandhan T., Fr. Antony Samy A., Fr. Arockiadoss, Fr. Arputharaj J., Fr. Bakthiswalagan A., Fr. Jegan Patrick Daniel, Fr. Franklin Arockia Doss M., Fr. Leo Joseph X., Fr. Paul Francis A., Fr. Paulraj P., Fr. Perianayagasamy A., Fr. Sagaya Raj S., Fr. Samson Rajasegaren J., Fr. Shantham R., Fr. Vincent S.: ordination day
- 8 Fr. Dominic Sebastian Baskar: feast day
- 10 Fr. Lawrence Thampusamy R., Fr. Enzo Addari: feast day
- 11 Fr. Kumar S.: birthday; Fr. Prakash Philemen Raj: feast day
- 12 Fr. Shantham R., Fr. Rambabu V.: birthday
- 13 Fr. Arockia Doss J.: birthday
- 15 Fr. David J., Fr. Deva P.: birthday; Fr. Arputharaj J.: feast day
- 16 Fr. Franklin Arokia Doss M.: birthday
- 18 Fr. Adaikalam, Fr. Paul Arockiaraj, Fr. David Anburaj T., Fr. Bernandes, Fr. Charles Promiyo: ordination day
- 20 Fr. Bernandes, Fr. Maria Julian Bernard L.: feast day
- 22 Fr. Suresh, Bro. Yesu Babu Kota: birthday; Fr. Achariyam, Fr. Amal Raj, Fr. Anil Francis Kumar K., Fr. Arockia Vanathaiyan A., Fr. Arockiaraj, Fr. Arul, Fr. Badugu Christu Raju, Fr. Maria Julian Bernard L., Fr. Charles A., Fr. Dominic Sebastian Baskar, Fr. Edal Vinoth Joe, Fr. Gabriel G., Fr. John Kennedy A., Fr. John Peter A., Fr. Joseph Fernandez S., Fr. Anthony Kalai Selvan, Fr. Kanikkai Raj A., Fr. Loyola Diraviam M., Fr. Michael Durai Samy A., Fr. Periyanyagam M., Fr. Prakesh Philemen Raj, Fr. Rishar Raffé Jegan S., Fr. Selvakani, Fr. Stalin S., Fr. Francis Sunil Kumar D., Fr. Wellington, Fr. Vincent M., Fr. Vissampalli Maria Balayesu, Fr. Antony Xavier R.: ordination day
- 25 Fr. Louis Baskar A.: feast day
- 26 Fr. Samson Rajasekaran J.: birthday
- 29 Fr. Gnanaraj: birthday
- 31 Fr. Loyola Diraviam: birthday; Fr. Deva, Fr. Jayaseelan, Fr. Packia Raj, Fr. Maria Antony Rajan, Fr. Vinnarasan: ordination day

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