



Guanella NEWS

www.operadonguanella.it

‘On the way to the XX General Chapter’

Dear Confreres.

As you have realized, in the official web-site of the Congregation (www.operadonguanella.it) we have opened a new window regarding the XX General Chapter to facilitate access to information necessary to prepare ourselves to such an important appointment. The purpose of such initiative is to stimulate each confrere to open his heart and interest to the event of the General Chapter, so that, through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the contribution of all, we may renew ourselves as witnesses of a life consecrated to mission.

As ‘logo’ of the Chapter we have chosen a tree, in many ways a meaningful symbol of our reality. A tree whose roots are connected to the sap of the perennial nourishment of the charisma. A tree that is spreading life into the three branches of the Guanellian Family in order to carry out its mission in the Church and in the world.

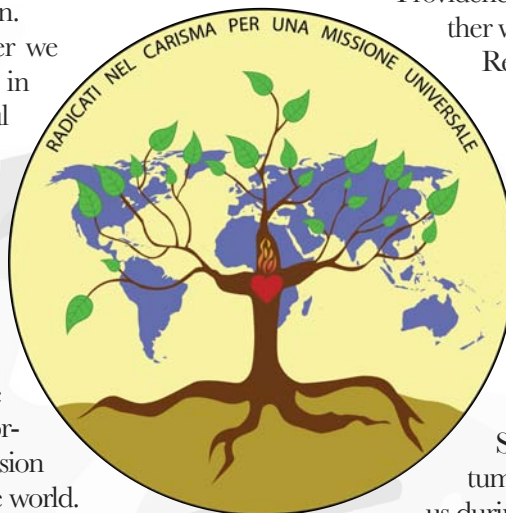
The fact that there are no fruit on the tree appears on purpose as a provocation to us; not certainly to signify that in the present and in the past, we have prevented the charisma to bear fruit. On the contrary! We have to thank God for the many good things he helps us to do, even without fanfare. As Pope Francis often reminds us, we are going through a changing period of time and, in this new season, we need a rejuvenation of life and an increased fecundity of our charisma.

In the afterwards of our January meeting with the superiors of Provinces and Delegation, we have decided to begin the preparation to the general Chapter by involving as much as possible all confreres and with them all the Guanellian Family through prayer, reflection, and sharing.

Prayer. Besides reciting the prayer for the Chapter (soon to be published), we should not forget to celebrate the Holy Eucharist as a community every 24th day of the month according to the intentions of the Congregation. We rely on the Lord and on the intercession of Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, and all our Saints, together with all those who love us.

Reflection. We should use our community meetings, as well as other sorts of formative or planning meetings, to reflect together on the topics presented to us by the general Council. Of course, we should not neglect time for personal reflection.

Sharing. The Instrumentum Laboris, that will guide us during the Chapter, will be the result of the reflections shared by the local communities and individual confreres. At the end of February, the first News-Letters has been sent to everyone as the first step of our preparation to the Chapter. In it, you will find some general questions whose answers will help us to lay out the initial foundations of the Chapter’s work. Please, send in your contribution before April 15, through my e-mail: crippa.alfonso@guanelliani.it.



‘On the way to the XX General Chapter’



‘Personal Charity’



From the General Council

As follow-up, you will receive other three News Letters on the three chosen topics: charism – interculturality – prophecy. They will be sent in April, May, and June. We should expect your feedback within the month following the time you receive the news letter.

The second step will be the preparation of the Provincial Chapters from whom we hope to receive more significant contributions on the three topics of the general Chapter, reflecting the enriching variety of the different cultures in which our Congregation carries out its mission.

As in the past, our General Chapter will also involve our Sisters, the Cooperators and the Lay Guanellian Movement in its various components. It is a responsibility of all confreres to inform and solicit the interest of the whole Guanellian Family on the Chapter event. Each local community should find the most appropriate way to promote the involvement of those who work and collaborate with us in our Guanellian mission. The general Council will organize during the year an opportunity for a speci-

fic sharing on the topics that will be tackled during the chapter.

Thank you very much for your collaboration, sign of a journey of communion involving the whole

Congregation. Already in our daily life and much more through these initiatives, we live the bond of charity that distinguishes us and makes us co-responsible of the common good, and joyful in having received from the Lord the same vocation and mission.

To make our

Chapter a true opportunity of renewal for the Congregation it is necessary that the Holy Spirit be at work in the heart of every confrere by awakening responsibility and spiritual resources so that *“all members of the community, like grains of wheat, ground and kneaded into dough, may become one bread offered on the table to stir up new life in the bodies and hearts of the guests.”*

Happy Easter to all.

Rome, Aprile 1° 2017

P. Alfonso



Mbeya, Tanzania: a new flower is blossoming

On the Easter celebration, by the grace of God a new flower is about to blossom on the branches of our Congregation. Landed in Tanzania last December 8 and after four month of training in Swahili language on the mountains of Iringa, our confreres Fr. Giancarlo Frigerio and Fr. Maximus Agulanna are ready to begin their mission in the outskirts of the city of Mbeya, officially welcomed by Bishop Evaristo Chengula who has invited and waited for us. A new small guanellian community is about to be born! Divine Providence has prepared for us a simple nest near a chapel and in the midst of the poor to whom we are sent. To accompany and facilitate the beginnings of this new missionary presence in East Africa the general council will be represented by Fr. Luigi, link for that Continent and in charge of new missions. To share with our confreres from the very beginning the experience of community life and mission, the Lord is offering the gift of the young diocesan priest Fr. Furaha Ntsamaye who has expressed interest in becoming our 'associate'. Let us praise the Good Lord together for this new missionary presence in Africa and let us wish our confreres and their collaborators a joyful journey and an fruitful service as disciples and apostles of the crucified and risen Christ among the little ones, the poor and most needy of our brethren.

‘PERSONAL CHARITY’

(Excerpts from St. Louis Guanella)

I quote a beautiful passage from “La Divina Provvidenza”, July 1896, in which Father Guanella shares with the newly ordained priests, Fr. Joseph Roncoroni and Fr. Silvio Vannoni, what he treasures most: his priests should live their priesthood by directly servicing the poor.

ANNO IV. - N. VIII.

LUGLIO, 1896.

LA DIVINA PROVVIDENZA

After the twelve noon solemn Mass everyone seated at table. Many were the invited guests, the families of the new priests, their sponsors, and some benefactors.

Toward the end of the familiar banquet, Father Guanella said, “Your joy is mine too, because with these new priests our opportunity to do more good increases.

Sons of charity, you have the obligation to be constantly

men of charity.

I don’t talk about financial charity. This one concerns the rich. I talk about a **personal charity** that everyone can practice, because all of us can do something good for our neighbor.

Personal charity consists in being willingly ready to help with love the needs of many. It is a charity appreciated by the Lord because, in putting it into practice, we have to make violence to ourselves, and to give up always some of our freedom, our likings, and our comforts because we love our suffering neighbor. How much good you can do! How many merits you can acquire through your personal charity!

There are the mental disabled who often are obstinate in requesting what is harmful to themselves. In these moments you have to take care of them as better as possible; you have to answer to their insults with kindness; you have to take them away from danger by a gentle way, and not let them be alone until they calmed down.

There are those who are sick and during the day they are caught by sadness and they cry. They need to be entertained and not to be left alone. We should not allow them to cry upon themselves because they are in a nursing home, away from their family, their friends, their children...

There are the physical disabled who need someone consoling them. I am talking to you to whom God has given health of mind and body. You too carry your cross, I know; but at least you do not need anyone helping you to get out of your bed! You don’t need anyone carrying you up the stairs! You can work, and after your working hours you can rest, you can run, you can jump here and there...How many people cannot afford all this? They are all the time seated there, on the same place, following your every movement with their eyes filled with tears. How much sorrow falls upon them in certain moments! Who is knowing to read their eyes? Who is knowing what is happening in their heart? You have the moral obligation to talk to them frequently, not to let them be alone too long. They are with us and with you, and they too should participate to your life, rejoice of your joy, and not feel the weight of their misfortune.

I warmly recommend this personal charity to you, and exhort you to put it into practice everywhere and all the time, in church, in the courtyard, in school, while studying, in the workshop, in the dormitory, within and without the House... everywhere and all the time with good words, wise advises, gentle approach, patience, sacrifice, and pleasant ways. At this point we truly will form a true one family, bound by holy bonds, the ones of Christian charity.”



Let us accept the grace of Christ’s Resurrection! Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

(Pape Francis)

***Best wishes for a joyful Easter
from the Superior general and his council***

‘FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL’

After informing you on the activities of the General Council in the December issue of Guanella News, the major activities on January and February were the Meeting with the Superiors of Provinces and Delegation and the first steps in preparing the XX general chapter that has been announced on February 27.

☒ The summary of the topics taken up during the Meeting with the provincials were already communicated through the Circular Letter, “At the conclusion of the Meeting...” A memorandum containing guidelines and suggestions fruit of the individual meeting with the Superiors and the Delegate has been sent to each Province.

☒ Regarding the preparation of the General Chapter, besides the official Act announcing the Chapter, a “First News Letter” has been sent inviting the confreres to reflect on the main theme of the chapter and soliciting feedbacks. So far, only a few communities have replied to the questionnaire submitted through the letter. We hope that everyone may feel the importance of an active personal participation in order to live the Chapter as a vital community event. Among other topics discussed by our General Council and activities carried out by the same in the past months we mention the following:

The strengthening of our recently opened mission stations:

- ☒ Selection and preparation of a second confrere for the Solomon Islands;
- ☒ Swahili language training course undertaken by our two confreres in Tanzania;
- ☒ Ongoing familiarization with the new culture and preparation for the mission undertaken by our three confreres from India recently landed in our Chelsea Community, MI, U.S.A.

Support of the general Council for the initial formation in Africa

This is expressed particularly by the presence of Fr. Luigi in our major seminaries of Kinshasa and Ibadan. Special support is also extended to the ongoing formation of our young local superiors in Africa with the aim of enabling them to better lead and animate their communities as well as the many educational and pastoral presences that are increasing and expanding

Support to un-accompanied young children, immigrants. Among the initiatives answering the challenges faced by Italian society, we appreciate the two Italian Provinces’ commitment to help the immigrants, especially minors

- o by welcoming them in our Centers in Como, Nuova Olonio, Novara, Milano
- o by collaborating with the Italian Charitas in our Center of Perugia St. Elena.

Confreres, absent from the Community

We also took into consideration the situation of some of our confreres absent from the communities. As we try to understand the reasons why they leave, we are also concerned about the hard time faced by some Provinces in promoting a more fruitful vocation ministry.

Administrative- financial issues, We thank the Lord by showing us in different ways his love toward our poor. At the same time, we ask all our confreres to collaborate with Divine Providence through our direct presence among the poor and the proper use of resources.

Coordination among the Provinces. We support the different forms of coordination among Provinces, undertaken especially in South America and Italy. The Unified Administrative Office in Italy is getting organized and its function, while aiming at a coordinated management of all the bureaucratic issues submitted by Italian laws, should enable the General Council to be freer to attend to the administrative needs coming from the wider picture of the entire congregation.

Surely, our Council has tackled many other issues and urgencies. We apologize if we have forgotten to mention other relevant information. Be assured that in our meetings we feel your presence among us. We ask you to pray for us and we count on your support and understanding toward our ministry of animation.

In charitate Christi.
P. Alfonso

News di Congregazione

Eventi di Consacrazione

✓ L'11 febbraio 2017, nella Parrocchia Saint John the Baptist, a Poonamallee-Chennai in India, hanno emesso la professione perpetua i nostri confratelli: Bala, Jesu, Fernandez, Michael, Periyagayanam, Vanathayam e Xavier. L'indomani tutti e sette, nella stessa parrocchia, sono stati ordinati Diaconi da Mons. Antonisamy, Vescovo di Kumbakonam.

✓ L'11 febbraio 2017 è stato ordinato presbitero il Diac. Eli Marcel de Abreu, nella Parrocchia Santa Cruz, a Sao Paulo, Brasile per l'imposizione delle mani di Mons. Protógenes Luft, Vescovo di Barra do Garças.

✓ Il 18 febbraio 2017, nella Parrocchia Nossa Senhora da Luz, a Nonoai (RS) in Brasile è stato ordinato sacerdote il Diac. Rudinei Orlandi per l'imposizione delle mani di Mons. Protógenes Luft, Vescovo di Barra do Garças.

Nella Casa del Padre Confratelli

✓ Il 28 dicembre 2016 è deceduto a Como, Casa Madre, Don Luigi Alfano dopo una lunga malattia.

✓ Il 4 marzo 2017 è tornato alla Casa del Padre, Don Tito Credaro all'età di 95 anni, 75 di professione religiosa, 70 di sacerdozio.

Familiari dei Confratelli defunti

✓ Il 29 dicembre 2016, è mort a Caidate, il Sig. Giuseppe Cecchinato, papà di Fr. Mauro Cecchinato.

✓ Il 22 gennaio 2017, a Thennur, India è morta la Sig.ra Maria Regina, mamma dei nostri confratelli Fr. John Bosco e Don Kuriakose.

✓ Il 26 gennaio 2017, a Melmidalam, Kanyakumari, India è deceduta la Sig.ra Maria Dossi, mamma del nostro chierico Jesaseelan.

✓ L'8 febbraio 2017, a Akkarapalayam in India, all'età di 63 anni, è morta la Sig.ra Elizabeth, mamma del nostro confratello Fr. P. Paulraj.

✓ Il 21 febbraio 2017 è morto in Brasile, il Sig. Francisco De Melo Viana, papà del nostro confratello Pe. Antônio Viana.

✓ Il 5 marzo 2017, ad Ulagampati in India, all'età di 70 anni, è deceduta la Sig.ra Savariammal, mamma del nostro confratello Fr. John Dass.

✓ Il 17 marzo 2017, a Thennur si è estinto il Sig. Arockiasamy, papà dei nostri confratelli Fr. John Bosco e Don Kuriakose.

✓ Il 23 marzo 2017, è ritornata alla Casa del Padre, la Cooperatrice Sig.ra Anna Mariani, cognata del nostro confratello Don Fabio Lorenzetti.

✓ Il 29 marzo 2017, è deceduta a Varese la Sig.ra Paola Brugnoli, di anni 82, sorella di Don Umberto Brugnoli.

Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio generale

- Don Luigi: 5 al 21 aprile in Tanzania - 22 al 13 maggio in Nigeria
- Don Alfonso e Don Ciro: 18 al 23 maggio in Romania
- Prossimi raduni di Consiglio: 26-27 aprile 2017; 24-25 maggio; 21-22 giugno

