



Guanella NEWS

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'Five years later...'



'Fr Guanella's Missionary Soul'



'Memory of that October 23, 2011'



'From the General Council'

'Five years later...'

Dear Confrères,

For us Guanellians the month of October is a special time for remembering: we recall the birth of our Founder in Heaven, his glorification here on earth as a Blessed, 25 October 1964, and as a Saint on 23 October 2011. However, it is a special time above all for the commitment to deepening our knowledge of him and to living his spirit, so that his life and his holiness may be a stimulus and a model for all of us who have chosen to follow in his footsteps and to continue his mission. His holiness must become not only personal holiness but a shared holiness, a community holiness. The charism which the Spirit has passed down to us too must always be actualized and brought to life by community discernment, listening to the perennial innovations of the Spirit.

Fr Guanella's canonization has certainly made us closer; we have also brought him to our Communities – with his urn or with his relics – as an incentive to us to know him better and to spread the devotion to him and his spirit.

Thanks to the Communion of Saints, our Founder continues to be present among us and intercedes for his family's faithfulness and creativity. It is up to us to keep ourselves available to the action of the Spirit and to live in communion with the holy Confrères of our origins so that the charism will make our present fertile, just as it was in our Founder's time. For some years now it has been possible for many Confrères to have the ex-

perience of 'Sui Passi di LUI. This has taken them on pilgrimage to the places which saw him as an apostle and prophet of charity, with the aim of understanding better the essence of his charism so as to be able subsequently to inculcate him in the places of their own apostolate. Even in different historical or geographical situations, in order to live the Guanellian charism it is also always necessary to go back to our origins, not of course to recreate their external structures but to discover in depth the charism and spirit as they were in their time. Naturally, it is not enough to know our history or to admire the places where our Work physically began unless we participate profoundly in the charism, which is a dynamic grace and a gift of Providence. This is possible if we nurture and develop

within ourselves love for the Congregation, for the Confrères themselves with whom we are called to live and to sanctify ourselves mutually, if we approach the poor with the spirit

in which Fr Guanella and the earliest Confrères accepted and served them, and if, still today, we can live that preventive system "on the ways of the heart", which makes our educational apostolate an experience of true spirituality. Today there is the risk that in our service we may be obliged to give priority to technology rather than to "the ways of the heart", or to attach more importance to bureaucracy and to organizational standards rather than preserving the family spirit. We may be obliged too to



take in those who already enjoy reliable social security rather than opening at least some corner of our houses to people who are more neglected and marginalized.

During the celebrations of the Centenary of our Founder's death we forcefully repeated: we must enlarge our hearts to people suffering unheard of and less protected forms of poverty to whom we should offer not only "well-organized services" but also, especially, that closeness which makes the poor feel surrounded by the affection of those who welcome them into their family. Offering hospitality to the poor person because "he or she is Jesus Christ" gave our Founder the basic motive of his holiness. He made use not only of his intelligence and capacity for action but also of his entire affective life: "A Christian heart that sees and feels cannot pass by the poor..." and continue on his way, pretending not to see or excusing himself on the grounds that social rules have to be preserved...

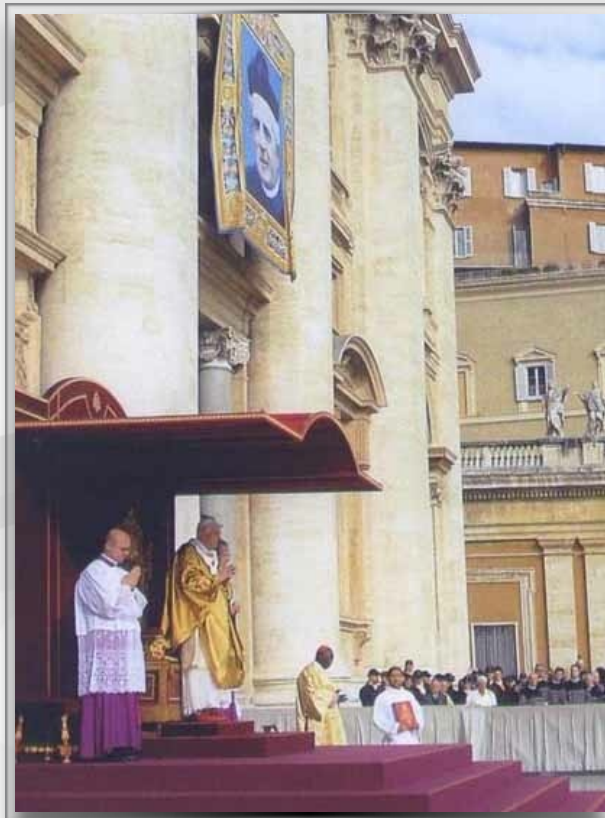
Here we are at the heart of our charism, because the Lord is Father for each one of us. However, God does not love us in order to enjoy his love, as it were selfishly, but rather so that we will have his love to give to others. And today how many opportunities we have to live our charism in depth!

We sometimes complain that we find it an effort to live in communion with each other with that "bond of charity" so strongly supported by our Founder, but the cause of this effort may also be the remoteness of our poor in both our community life and in our apostolate. When a child is born into a family this child also strengthens the bonds of love between its parents!

At the round table organized during the celebrations of the Centenary of our Founder's death we began our reflection with this subject, "Our Foun-

der in our hands. The charism between fidelity and newness, in which we sought to answer some provocative questions:

- ✓ In what hands has Fr Guanella's charism been deposited? A treasure in earthen vessels, yet always a great treasure!
- ✓ How is it possible to keep fidelity to the charism and newness well tuned in order to express it today in a society very different from that of our Founder?
- ✓ How can we discern the newness or innovations demanded by the signs of the times and by the exhortations of Pope Francis?



The reflection will continue and in the coming months will bring us to prepare ourselves with awareness for the upcoming General Chapter precisely by delving more deeply into these subjects, which are essential for our Congregation. In the meantime let us revive both our personal and our community life by living the freely-given gift we have received, for in order to make the charism effective and to communicate it we must experience it ourselves and make it active in our lives. Let us invoke the Spirit of the Lord with greater insistence through the intercession of St Luigi Guanella

so that his presence in our midst may render us capable of the discernment we need to face the challenges of the present.

To all of you Confrères, to our Sisters, to the Cooperators and to the Lay Guanellians, as well as to all those for whom our charity is intended, may I extend my good wishes and express the hope that you may live the feast of our holy Founder with the openness of heart and mind which characterized him throughout his life.

In charitate Christi.

24 Ottobre 2016

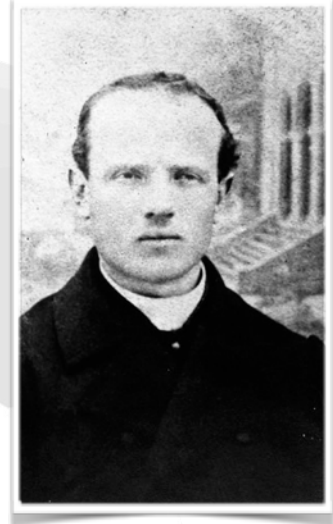
Don Alfonso Crippa

'FR GUANELLA'S MISSIONARY SOUL'

(Ideas inspired by the small work "Vieni meco per le suore missionarie americane", in use in the Congregation of the Daughters of St Mary of Providence in Como, 1913 ")

In this little book by Fr Guanella are to be found useful instructions to nourish our missionary spirit in this phase in which the whole Congregation is committed to spreading our Founder's charism of charity in various young Churches throughout the world. When Fr Guanella decided to send his Sisters to the United States (1913), to found the Work in Chicago, he immediately wondered who he should send. He knew that his desire would be met with enthusiasm by many of his Sisters, demonstrating the great availability which he himself had been able to instil in his women religious even for ventures demanding courage. It suffices to remember the readiness of them all to go to the help of the sick stricken by cholera and of those hit by earthquakes in the city of Messina (1908).

Fr Guanella considered the missionary vocation a great grace of the Lord which all must nurture in their hearts, even if they lived it in different forms: *"In this regard each and every one of the Daughters of St Mary of Providence can be missionaries, because each and every one of them takes part in the mission, directly or indirectly". "This missionary spirit must invade the souls of them all"*



Who wanted to respond to the call?

In this missionary initiative, which was the Congregation's first, it was expected that Fr Guanella himself would want to choose who to send. Instead, what he said was surprising: "You would like your Superiors, representatives of God, to speak first and to invite you. *"But since they want you, isn't it better that you express yourselves within your own hearts? The Lord is within you and speaks to you..."*

What were the necessary gifts and qualities?

Fr Guanella had no doubts about giving the first place to humility: *"Truly humble souls are the most generous souls and succeed the best and obtain the most in important undertakings"*. It was a humility which must avoid not only presumption but also cowardice. If the missionary vocation is a grace of the Lord he can also grant it not only *"To those who are advanced in perfection but also to those who are at a lower level, because the wretched creatures understand that they are nothing and sin, and must fully await God's help"*.

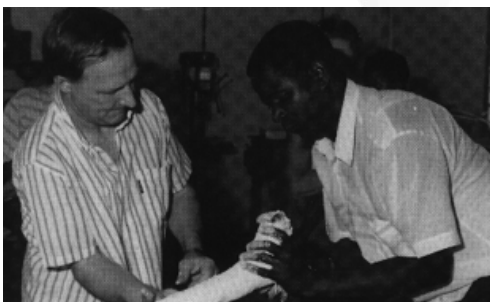
Here the spirit of "It is God who does" rings out clearly.

Then, however, Fr Guanella, in accordance with his style, did not limit himself to spiritual conditions. He wanted to see the missionary spirit reflected in human qualities too. These were gifts of mind and body, as he called them: a capacity for government (especially prudence), a capacity for collaboration (docility) with the Superiors, and a capacity for adaptation. The body was also to be taken into account: *"The body is the*

vessel of the soul and it is good that it should be a vessel properly supported, and, if like a vase it is of fragile crystal, that it be carefully looked after so that it can take the strain".

What training was required?

Here too Fr Guanella pointed out a priority: *"It is being able to speak to the people with whom one has to deal"*. It was clear to Fr Luigi that the missionary's priority is to proclaim, which demands an ability for understanding and for conversation with different people. Even while stressing that the greatest witness which his Sisters must bear was to charity and to works of mercy, he wanted to make them realize that without communication this message could not reach people's hearts. *"Whoever repudiates the study of a language (En-*



glish in the case of the first Sisters), which is said to be the language of birds, is preparing herself for no few humiliations and for being and being called a 'half-person'". In facing the problem of language, he foresaw the full outreach of inculturation. This term was not in use in his time but its whole spirit was very present in his recommendations. He had sent his Sisters mainly to look after and give support to Italian emigrants but... be careful!... neither the Italians themselves nor the Sisters must live on the margins, in order not to feel marginalized.. *"Do not let it be known that you want to limit yourselves to the care and hence to the language of the Italians; for this will make you less welcome to the civil as well as to the ecclesiastical authorities, and you will not be able to aspire to being considered international religious, and even less, cosmopolitan Sisters...."*



In that first little group of Sisters Fr Guanella saw the seed of a larger expansion for his Work!

A doubt...

Although he was inculcating this openness to inculturation, Fr Guanella wanted to keep his Sisters' identity clear: *"Devote yourselves to study, if and as much as you are permitted, and in such a way as not to cripple the spirit of your Rule which preaches work to you rather than study. In this manner our Italian brothers and sisters will not be tempted to say: see, the daughters of Italy have become daughters of America"*.

We understand the full meaning of this sentence: that is, the danger of excessive secularization, taking as a life style certain negative types of behaviour of that society. Indeed, in other parts of his book Fr Guanella highlighted the dangers of Americanization, recommending in particular that the Sisters keep themselves poor and always prefer God to technology. *"Have you understood, Daughters of Divine Providence? It is not enough to work; you must pray first... You may conclude; Catholic Sisters always; Americanized missionaries, never"*.

A strong conviction

Fr Guanella once again took up the theme of poverty because it was very dear to him: *"But blessed Daughters, do you think that this constitutes the holiness of the blessedness of the poor in spirit? Professing yourselves poor only when you lack nothing and at the sound of the bell, having the comforts of living and sleeping, this does not make you perfect in virtue"*. He had a great desire that even though they were far away from their Superiors his Sisters should keep the spirit of Providence strong. Thus, precisely in this little work, Fr Guanella gives us some of his best-known and most widely heard maxims, which are like precious pearls which reflect the beauty of the Guanellian charism in a plastic form. I communicate three of them, but a great many others could be added, as if to say that this small volume is a true synthesis of the Guanellian spirit.

- *"When human measures and the help of the human arm enter the foundations it seems as if the arm of Divine Providence is growing shorter, and as if Providence is saying: 'It is not I, Divine Providence, who is working alone: at the same time human hands are sprinkling a little gold dust and this gets in my eyes and bothers me'"*.
- *"Well, may you take in the first and most abandoned person of all and sit her at table with you and her your own, for she is Jesus Christ"*.
- *"We have repeated it thousands of times: if you want the Congregation to become consumptive, make sure that it becomes rich"*.



Dear Confrères, while we thank the Lord for the beautiful and high-quality witness borne in this first Centenary of the death of our Founder and the deaths of so many of our missionary Confrères in various parts of the world, let us ensure that memory, prayer, sensitivity and the readiness to make himself available to the Spirit, wherever he calls us, grow within the heart of each one of us.

'Memory of that October 23, 2011'

Homily Pope Benedict XVI

....”The human and spiritual testimony of St Luigi Guanella is a special gift of grace for the whole Church. During his earthly life he lived with courage and determination the Gospel of Love and the “great commandment”, which today too, the Word of God has recalled. Thanks to the profound and continuing union with Christ, in the contemplation of his love, Don Guanella, led by Divine Providence, became a companion and teacher, comfort and support to the poorest and weakest. The love of God aroused in him the desire for the good of the people who were entrusted to him in the routine of daily life. He paid caring attention to each one and respected the pace of their development. He cultivated the hope in his heart that every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, by tasting the joy of being loved by him — Father of all — can receive and give to others the best of himself. Today, let us praise and thank the Lord, who gave us a prophet and an apostle of love in St Luigi Guanella. In his testimony, so full of humanity and attention to the least, we recognize a bright sign of the presence and charitable action of God, the God — as we heard in the First Reading — who defends the stranger, the widow, the orphan, the poor person obliged to give his garment in pledge... his only covering for the night (cf. Ex 22:20-26). May this new Saint of love be for everyone, especially for the members of the Congregations founded by him, a model of profound and fruitful synthesis between contemplation and action that he himself lived and put into practice. We can summarize his whole human and spiritual life in his last words on his death-bed: “in caritate Christi”. It is Christ’s love that illumines the life of every person, revealing through the gift of himself to others that nothing is lost but is fully realized for our happiness. May St Luigi Guanella obtain that we may grow in friendship with the Lord to be bearers of the fullness of God’s love in our time, to promote life in all of its forms and conditions, and to ensure that human society increasingly become the family of God’s children....”.

(Dall’Omelia di Papa Benedetto XVI nella Canonizzazione del Fondatore, Roma 23 ottobre 2011).



From The Homily of Cardinal Bertone

....” The Eucharist is in the meantime the frame and the perspective through which we look at the image of Saint Luigi Guanella. He was used to call the Eucharist “our paradise on earth” and he let himself be guided through all his life by the mystery of the Cenacle, by Christ’s words addressed to his disciples: “Do this in memory of me”. Indeed, he considered his entire life as “memory of Jesus”, celebrated and realized in both the holy sacrifice of the altar and in the washing of the feet of the poorest of his brethren.

In this moment, we spiritually turn our eyes to the Sacred Heart Shrine in Como, Mother House of Saint Luigi’s Communities, where his relics are exposed to the veneration of the faithful. There, one of the things that attract the mind of the visitors is the small window overlooking the tabernacle. A selected and privileged spot from which one can fix his gaze on Jesus. That was his secret, his source of strength that made him constantly available and dedicated to Christ and to his little brothers and sisters, making of him a man of God whose only ambition was “I live by faith”. The canonization of a member of God’s people is indeed stressing this point: a constant decision of self-giving, never contradicted; not the gesture of an occasional act of heroism, but the continuous flowing of Love from faith and in patient hope...



...The passion of Saint Luigi Guanella was for the ”half extra step”, for the little improvement, for the slow opening up of the poor to trust and hope: his people were not that type of persons who could cause glory to their caretakers and benefactors. Neither could he expect too many improvements in them. Little, very little he could expect from their lives already in their declining phase. Bu he knew that life at sunset reveals colors of a rare beauty, like autumn that is often the most colorful of the seasons or like the sun that at sunset is more beautiful, as he was used to say. Saint Luigi was ready to give up his meal when someone was without food or give away his bed when a poor had no place to sleep. That is the legacy, which he is leaving to all of you his sons and daughters of today and tomorrow. His last will speaks clearly: “Never hurt Charity and Providence! Do not put in the last place in your home those who are supposed to be in the first one, the poorest the most neglected and abandoned ones”

(October 24 2011: Thanksgiving Mass in Saint Peter Basilica, Vatican City).



From the General Council

In our council meeting of 14-15 October, we started considering specific situations of some confreres. We stopped and reflected about Don Francesco Belotti, a witness of Guanellian charity that gave his life for God and for the poor of Chile until the Lord called him into heavens.

From the General Secretary arrived a small subsidy on the latest brothers moved to different provinces, you have outlined some ideas about it that will be part of the topics in the next meeting with provincial.

Afterwards, we analyzed the perspectives of the International Theological Seminary of Rome as well as specified some dates for the next perpetual professions and diaconal ordinations.

Then, we updated about new missionary presences in dependence from Curia: Mbeya in Tanzania, Iasi in Romania, Pforzheim in Germany and the recent presence at Noro in the Solomon Islands (Oceania) and we dealt some aspect of the Centro Studi and Pious Union.

The next point was that the provinces with their challenges and special situations. We confirmed P. Edenilso De Costa as 4th Provincial Councillor of the Province Santa Cruz and P. Adelmo Maldaner as secretary "ad interim"

Regarding the recent meeting of Latin American pastors held in Paraguay, it seemed interesting to have the conclusions for guidelines for a further program of the same parishes

Lastly it was revised the schedule of the counselor's travel dates, procrastination of some trips: the reasons.

Counting with the presence of the General Treasurer, we have entered the economics topics and issues related with the Italian Province of the Congregation of the Servants of Charity Association.

News di Congregazione



Anniversari di professione religiosa e sacerdozio

- ✓ Il 07.10 **Don Aldo Mosca** ha celebrato il 25° di professione religiosa.
- ✓ Il 16.10 **P. Edgar Juárez Morales** e **P. Teodoro Raúl Rodríguez Avilés** hanno celebrato il 10° anniversario di ordinazione sacerdotale.



Eventi di Consacrazione

- ✓ Oggi, 24 ottobre nella Basilica Nazionale di Luján, in Argentina, emettono la prima professione religiosa i novizi: **Osmar Jesús Vázquez Suárez** (Prov. Cruz del Sur), **Álvaro Luis Barrios Ramos** (Prov. Nostra Sig.ra di Guadalupe) e **Valdenilson Rodrigues Barros** (Prov. Santa Cruz)
- ✓ Il 21 ottobre, a Kinshasa, nella RD Congo, hanno emesso la professione religiosa in perpetuo i seguenti confratelli della Delegazione Ns. Sig.ra della Speranza: **Kibwamusitu Pumbulu Bruno**; **Iwuchukwu Eze Jerome**; **Ntambo Enewa Gédéon**; **Oguejiofor Chukwudi Vincent**; **Ozokoye Chijoke Stephen**. L'indomani, gli stessi confratelli sono stati ordinati diaconi da **Mons. Jean Pierre Kwambamba, Vescovo ausiliare di Kinshasa**.



Nella Casa del Padre Confratelli



- ✓ Il 5 ottobre, a Coyhaique in Cile, è tornato alla Casa del Padre, **Don Francesco Belotti**, all'età di 93 anni, 71 di professione religiosa e 67 di permanenza in Cile.



Familiari dei Confratelli

- ✓ Il 9 settembre, in Brasile, è deceduto, all'età di 89 anni, il Sig. **Leo José Maldaner**, papà del nostro confratello **Pe. Adelmo Maldaner**.

Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio generale

- Raduno di Consiglio: 5-6 dicembre
- Don Gustavo: Filippine dal 3 al 17 novembre.
- Don Ciro: Provincia Guadalupe e Provincia Santa Cruz 27 ottobre e rientra il 27 novembre.

