



Guanella NEWS

Curia Generalizia - Vicolo Clementi, 41 - Roma
www.operadonguanella.it

'The phase of Provincial Chapters'

Dear Confreres,

Within the next months of September-November, through the celebration of the Provincial Chapters, the preparation for the XX General Chapter will enter into a more intensive phase. We should all intensify our commitment to invoke from the Lord his spirit of discernment and to solicit our communities particularly the Confreres selected as delegates to the Chapter to adequately prepare themselves so that the main needs and expectations of the communities may surface and be brought to the Chapter to enrich its reflection and work.

From the Provincial Chapters we expect a significant contribution, which mirrors the reality and the culture of its particular context and may serve as well as stimulus for the global project of the Congregation, by stressing what is essential in reference to our life witness, our charism and mission. In this particular graceful moment of our Congregation's history, it is particularly important to experience the spirit of sharing our gifts in order to deepen our spiritual and practical communion to answer to the Congregation's worldwide vision. The Provincial Chapter, besides reflecting on the main theme of the XX General Chapter "Charism, interculturality and prophecy" should answer a common questionnaire prepared by the General Council on the themes of: Formation, Governance, Organization of the Congregation and Mission, in order to stimulate the General

Chapter to offer concrete orientations for the next six years. Toward this purpose of opening horizons meaningful to all, we should use and value not only our theoretical reflections but especially the living experiences of our Communities. It is exactly for this reason that the General Chapter must take in to consideration the expectations and proposals coming from the communities as well as from individual confreres. We are all invited to actively participate in this opportunity of reviewing and planning our life. The General Chapter event is not limited to the three weeks of the gathering of the Delegates from all over the Congregation but is a process that the Spirit begins in every confrere's heart, awakening in him Responsibility, availability and resources; a process that will continue in putting into practice the orientations that the Chapter will give to the whole Congregation.

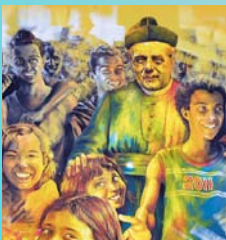
The general Chapter is above all a spiritual event that must be prepared in prayer and through reflection, both personal and communitarian, involving the entire Guanellian Family. It has been already announced that in view of the XX General Chapter we will treasure the opportunity to listen our sisters, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, as well as our Cooperators and representatives of the Guanellian Lay Movement during a preparatory reunion to be held in our Theological Seminary in Rome on November 10-12 and which we have chosen to call 'Little Chapter of the Family'.



'The phase of Provincial Chapters'



'Twenty-five years ago our guanellian presence in Africa was beginning...'



'News di Congregazione'

We deem it important to dialogue with the other members of our Guanellian family to be enlightened by them through their reflections and proposals.

In this time of spiritual preparation I invite in a special way, to practice the spirituality of communion, rekindling in us that family spirit that should be indeed the foundation on which we build our spiritual renewal. Family spirit which enables us : to see and appreciate the beauty in each confrere and reality of the Congregation; to welcome and share the resource of our confreres coming from different cultures; to become better aware of the richness of life that we receive from our poor and that they express in spite of and through their limitations.; to streng-

then creativity and courage in order to open up to the Spirit inspiration and the changing events of history.

I remind all to pray daily and ask people to pray for the Chapter, using also the proposed invocations.

We are convinced that we can attempt to achieve such high goals only by listening to the word of God, by praying and through the daily experience of fraternal dialogue in the community; finally also by facing the present day material difficulties with a generous heart.

May the Lord accompany us with His grace and providence.

Cordial Greetings.

Rome, September 15, 2017 Fr. Alfonso

CAPITOLI PROVINCIALI e di DELEGAZIONE



Provincia N.S. di Guadalupe

Data e luogo: Giugno 20-23, 2017 – (Sede della provincia - Città del Messico) - MESSICO

Titolo: “Promoviendo la fraternidad en interculturalidad”

Rappresentante del Consiglio Generale: P. Ciro Attanasio



Delegazione N.S. della Speranza

Data e luogo: Settembre 10-14, 2017 – (Don Guanella Centre - Nnebukwu) - NIGERIA

Titolo: “See, I am doing something new”

Rappresentante del Consiglio: P. Alfonso Crippa



Provincia Santa Cruz

Data e luogo: Settembre 25-29, 2017 – (Hotel Pampas – Mantra, Canela -RS)-BRASILE

Titolo: “Carisma, Interculturalidade e Profecia”.

Rappresentante del Consiglio: P. Ciro Attanasio



Provincia Cruz del Sur

Data e luogo: Ottobre 9-13, 2017 – (Sede della Provincia - Tapiales) - ARGENTINA

Titolo: “Carisma, interculturalidad y profecía”

Rappresentante del Consiglio: P. Ciro Attanasio



Provincia Romana San Giuseppe

Data e luogo: Ottobre 8-13, 2017 – (Casa Santa Rosa - Roma) - ITALIA

Titolo: “Tempo di riforma? La Provincia tra le esigenze della consacrazione, le sfide della missione e della profezia”.

Rappresentante del Consiglio: P. Umberto Brugnoli



Provincia Sacro Cuore:

Data e luogo: Novembre, 6-11, 2017 – (Barza d’Ispra - Varese) - ITALIA

Titolo: “Ecco, faccio una cosa nuova: proprio ora germoglia, non ve ne accorgete? (Is. 43,19)”

Rappresentante del Consiglio: P. Luigi De Giambattista



Provincia Divine Providence:

Data e luogo: Novembre 20-24, 2017 - (Saint Joseph Seminary - Cuddalore) - INDIA

Titolo: “Deepening our Charism and Intercultural Communities”

Rappresentante del Consiglio: P. Alfonso e P. Gustavo

‘Twenty-five years ago our guanellian presence in Africa was beginning..’

From Bro. Franco Lain’s historical excursion on the first steps of our guanellian beginnings in Africa, I am taking the following segments, which I am happy to share on the joyful occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of our presence in Nigeria.

The first encounter of Bishop Mark Unegbu, accompanied by Fr. Kevin Akagha, with our confreres Fr Domenico Saginario and Fr. Wladimiro Bogoni took place on 13th of June 1989.

Two weeks after that meeting, exactly from July 2 to 28, Fr. Maurizio Bianchi and Fr. Wladimiro Bogoni visited Nigeria accompanied by Fr. Anthony Njoku. Back home, Don Maurizio wrote on ‘Informazioni’:

For some time the desire to step out on new frontiers was already spreading among confreres. Almost in response to such aspiration, the general council, gathered in Rome the past November with the provincial superiors of all the provinces, invited us to express our missionary dimension in a more visible way. Several signs directed us toward Nigeria. In July, with the confrere Fr. Wladimiro Bogoni, I have been in that country, precisely in Biafra, whose events of great sorrow we all remember.

This journey marked the encounter between two major figures in the process of the “implantation” of our Congregation in Africa: the Provincial Father Maurizio Bianchi and Bishop Mark Unegbu. The relationship between the two grew stronger through more visits, always marked by deep respect on both sides and great openness to collaboration, thus establishing the basis for reciprocal understanding and agreements. As fruit of the first journey, at the beginning of November Fr. Bianchi could inform the Provincial Council that :

‘The first three postulants have arrived from Nigeria, and will reside at Anzano del Parco (our minor seminary in Northern Italy)

The three young men were Lawrence Ejimofor, from Owerri Diocese, Titus Ezenyimolo from Anambra, and Christopher Obiagba from Delta State.

The provincial Chapter held in December 1989 confirmed the decision to move towards Africa: the delegates at

the Chapter expressed their support to the line adopted by the provincial Council. At the beginning of June 1990 Bishop Unegbu visited Italy again and there met with the provincial council of the Sacred Heart Province. The time to select the confreres for the new mission was mature. The chosen ones were supposed to be Frs. Wladimiro Bogoni and Fr. Enzo Canzi, who would go for their initial experience in July 1990. On June 29 these confreres, accompanied by Fr. Marco Riva, took off for Nigeria. They returned to Italy on August 18, carrying good news, rich of hope and opened toward wide horizons. We could consider this experience as the initial seed of a small Guanellian in that new continent: a few Servants of Charity confreres living together for the first time on African soil. The place of their residence was the old Carmelite Monastery in Owerri, the place that later became the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. The

three confreres were living together with three seminarians. They were spending most of their time by visiting,



one by one, all the parishes of the diocese, interviewing especially the parish priests and trying to gather information on the existing services for persons with disabilities, besides holding interviews with possible candidates for vocation discernment. During that period, seven more candidates were chosen: two for theology (with Fr. Anthony's help) of whom only Benedict Onyema joined, and five for philosophy, including Christopher Orji and Kelechi Maduforo. We should note also that this initial experience remained somehow an isolated episode within the phase of our 'implantation', almost as a fruit promised but not yet ready to be harvested...

After the first experience in Owerri, the plan was smoothly carried out for some months. Fr. Wladimiro was sent to London to study English, while Fr. Ezio had to round up his commitment of apostolate in Spain before joining him in the new common project in Africa..

In September 1991, both were supposed to go to Owerri diocese and take charge of a newly erected parish of Orsu-Obodo. But in October Fr. Bogoni declared to the community that he was finding it difficult to continue with the project, therefore not assuring his stable presence for the period needed to start the new community in Owerri.

At that point, when apparently the whole apparatus of preparation was in a situation of total stand-by, the availability of Fr. Giancarlo Frigerio for the project surfaced providentially. Accepting the indications of the Pro-

vincial, Fr. Giancarlo was shifted from his original missionary destination in Nazareth to Nigeria, in order to join Fr. Ezio Canzi. The project could therefore continue its implementation with just some corrections: Fr. Ezio would take charge of the vocations' discernment and formation work, since he had already met some of the candidates, while Fr. Giancarlo would take care of the more specific apostolic work.

During Christmas holidays in 1991, Fr. Giancarlo Frigerio visited Nigeria for his first time together with the provincial councilor Fr. Giancarlo Pravettoni, and with two printing technicians who were to set up some of the donated machineries as Assumpta Press. They stayed at Naze with Fr. Anthony Njoku for about two weeks; they visited Bishop Unegbu and took vision of the land at Nnebukwu. During that period, contacts were established for the first time with the Ponti building company.

The machine was now moving: on March 24th, 1992, the anniversary of the first religious profession of the Servants of Charity, in the chapel of Anzano seminary, the Superior General Fr. Pietro Pasquali gave the two confreres, who were about to leave, the "missionary mandate". Many confreres, representing all the houses of the Northern Italy province, were present. In his homily, Fr. Pasquali recalled:

... Obeying an interior impulse and the logic of charity itself that knows no boundaries, already in 1913 don Guanella transplanted his religious family to the United States of America and don Leonardo Mazzucchi of blessed memory, in 1925 opened the way to Latin America for the Works of Don Guanella. This for several decades remained the privileged field of our mission.

After the beatification of don Guanella, while our presence in Latin America was consolidating and extending to other nations, wider horizons opened, not only in old Europe (Spain), and the Middle East (Nazareth), but also in Asia, the most densely populated continent, rich of ancient traditions and cradle of the most widespread religions. The Guanellian Works recently arrived in the Philippine islands and will soon pitch their tents in India. Until three years ago, Africa, for whom even recently the Pope has showed his predilection, had not been considered in our mission expansion plans. Actually, at the time of don Guanella's beatification, invitations by African Bishops were not lacking, but were always left unheeded, because our energies were absorbed by the needs of Latin America.

This evening, on the contrary, we are about to inaugurate a new journey, taking the Works of Don Guanella into the great African continent...

A week later, the official document for the installation of the Congregation in Owerri Diocese was signed by the Provincial:

The Provincial Council

*Answering the confreres' desire to give the Province an activity in mission lands; taking into consideration
-. the invitation from the Bishop of Owerri (Nigeria) to open a house in his diocese*



- the arrival of promising local vocations
- the discussions and provisions done during the past three years about:
 - the donation of the necessary land
 - the charitable and pastoral aim, welcomed and desired by the diocese
- the approval given by the General Council to the various steps of the process
- the consent coming also from outside, and promising help from lay groups
- seeing in all the above a sign of a Call to a new field of mission

decides to begin the activity of the Congregation in Nigeria – Owerri

entrusting the task to the confreres Fr. Ezio Canzi and Fr. Giancarlo Frigerio.

The Council sends information of all this to the General Superior for approval and to the Bishop of Owerri
 Como, 30th of March, 1992 Fr. Maurizio Bianchi

The answer from the General Council arrived two weeks later . the Superior General erected officially the Residence of Orsu-Obodo, depending directly on the provincial superior of Northern Italy.

The decree of erection stated the three apostolic goals of the new presence:

Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, pastoral ministry and formation of new candidates to the congregation.

The seventh of May 1992 marks therefore the beginning of a journey that had taken us into this new land open to welcome the tent of Charity of Fr. Luigi Guanella.

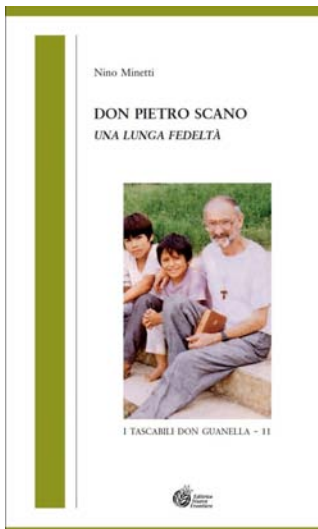


È uscito il libro: **“Una lunga fedeltà. Don Pietro Scano”**, Roma, Nuove Frontiere, 2017, (I Tascabili Don Guanella, n. 11), 85 p.

La biografia di un sacerdote guanelliano (1929-2013), memoria ed esempio del carisma di carità vissuto in terra e in spirito di missione.

«Gli ultimi mesi di vita di don Pietro, nonostante il male che da tempo lo aveva fortemente indebolito, erano diventati quasi un pellegrinaggio. In un tragitto però molto breve: tra la sua stanza e la chiesa parrocchiale, Santa Maria della Provvidenza a Napoli, zona Miano. Lo percorreva già di primo mattino, quando scendeva per la preghiera comunitaria dei confratelli, ma lo continuava anche dopo, sul mezzogiorno e nel pomeriggio. Che facesse freddo o caldo o piovesse. Che qualcuno lo aspettasse o lo avesse fatto chiamare. Don Pietro partiva per istinto ormai e, coprendo sempre la stessa distanza, arrivava in chiesa. Una breve preghiera, fatta più con lo sguardo che con le labbra. Un giro tra i banchi in cerca forse di antichi volti, sicuramente di ricordi cari. Poi, ripercorrendo la sacrestia, il cortile, il corridoio, il refettorio e le scale, tornava nella sua stanza, spoglia e austera come quella di un certosino...

...Si muore come si è vissuto. Per don Pietro la vita era stata una continua ‘uscita’, in cerca dell’altro, con instancabile dedizione. Dalla gente ora riceveva il contraccambio» (pp. 7-8).



News di Congregazione

Eventi di Consacrazione

✓ Il **24 giugno**, nella Parrocchia Nuestra Señora de las Lajas, in Bogotá, Colombia, **Arlindo Brítez, Francesco Bernardone dos Santos Cosa e Tiago da Silva** hanno emesso la loro professione religiosa in perpetuo. L'indomani nella stessa parrocchia hanno ricevuto l'ordinazione diaconale per la preghiera e l'imposizione delle mani di Mons. Luis Manuel Ali Herrera.

✓ Il **1 luglio** a Legazpi, nelle Filippine, hanno emesso la prima professione religiosa i novizi: **Lanuza Mark, Nguyen Van Dao e Nguyen Van Dien**.

✓ Il **25 luglio** a Nnebukwu, in Nigeria hanno fatto la prima professione religiosa i novizi **Eze John Kennedy Munachi, Kubanga Grace Izangi, Mangalano François Maldini, Mazembo Téophile, Nwabar Valentine Ugochukwu, Nyenga François Tomukele, Ozor Henry Chumkwumerie e Tyotule Thaddeus Tersugh**.

✓ A Kinshasa, nella RD del Congo, il giorno **1 agosto** nella Cattedrale Notre Dame du Congo, sono stati ordinati sacerdoti: **Oscar Kasongo Ntabala, Gedeon Ntambo Enewa e Marc Mamona Mamona**, per la preghiera ed imposizione delle mani di Mons. Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, Arcivescovo Metropolitano di Kinshasa.

✓ Il **5 agosto** ad Owerri (Nigeria) nella Cattedrale Maria Assunta, abbiamo avuto la grazia dell'ordinazione sacerdotale di altri quattro: **Eustace Nnadozie Diala, Jerome Eze Iwuchukwu, Vincent Chukwudi Oguejiofor e Stephen Chijioke Ozokoye** per la preghiera ed imposizione delle mani di Mons. Anthony Obinna.

✓ Il **22 agosto** nella Chiesa del Seminario Saint Joseph di Cuddalore (India) sono stati ordinati sacerdoti dalle mani di Mons. Antony Anandarayar. Vescovo della Diocesi Pondy-Cuddalore, i seguenti confratelli: **Rathna Pandi Antony Xaviour; Antony Samy Arockia Vanathaiyan, Vissampalli Maria Balayesu; Badugu Christu Raju; Sammanasu Nathan Joseph Fernandez; Arockia Samy Michael Durai Samy; Maria John Joseph Periyamayagam; Antony Cruz Selvakani**.

Nella Casa del Padre



Familiari dei Confratelli defunti

✓ Il 28 giugno 2017 è deceduta a Medianeira (PR – Brasile) la **Sig.ra Iracema Back**, madre del nostro confratello Ir. Edgar Back.

✓ Il 30 giugno 2017 a Pozzo Faceto (BR) è tornata alla casa del Padre la **Sig.ra Maria Boggia**, nonna del nostro confratello, Fr. Enzo Gallo.

Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio generale

- Don Alfonso: 9-18 settembre in Nigeria
- Don Giro: 14-19 settembre in Romania; 24-5 ottobre in Brasile; 6-25 ottobre in Argentina.
- Don Gustavo: 21 al 03 ottobre negli Stati Uniti.
- Don Luigi: 12-21 settembre in Germania; 2-6 ottobre Incontro confratelli provenienti da altre Province a Fraciscio; 9-29 ottobre a Noro (Is Solomon).
- Prossimo raduno di Consiglio: 21-22 settembre.

