

Hello, I am Alfonso Martínez, the provincial father of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which includes the countries of Colombia, Spain, Guatemala and Mexico. Four countries in two continents. Many miles away from each other, but united by the same Guanellian heart, by the same mission.

We are the smallest Province of the congregation but we believe in the strength of weakness as Saint Paul says. Our Province embraces communities located in some American countries where our guanellian mission was more recently established, as well as in Spain where we have already celebrated our Golden Jubilee.

All together we are about 20 confreres of perpetual vows, 6 of temporary vows; I wish also to greet with affection some confreres who in spite of their absence from the community are experiencing peace.

We work in several houses: in 5 parishes and 2 chaplaincies, in 4 centers for differently able people; two of these facilities are permanent residences; we serve also in 4 centers for elderly, 1 school and an educational center for minors, 2 health centers for poor people. We run a multipurpose social center serving children in their early age, with workshops for adults and courts to promote sport in the area,. Through sponsorship program we support many children to carry out their studies, especially girls, We run workshops for the promotion of women. We animate a variety of parish groups , particularly two groups for people with disabilities, a social pastoral group, the local Caritas, a food bank, a special employment center, apartments for disabled people, a Pious Union of San José and two seminaries, one in Mexico and another in Colombia.

Too much work for few workers; it's true! Our works are meant to bear clear witness and to reflect the merciful and provident love of God. Along with us are working many professionals employees; I do not know their exact number, maybe more than 100 with a lot of volunteers. To all of them, we say thank you, because only with their cooperation and enthusiasm, sustained by guanellian spirit it is possible to carry out all these projects.

Thank you, confreres, for your courageous, committed and joyful work; likewise I thank our lay employees for their professionalism and collaboration; thanks to the volunteers who make their free time a work of art, and also a work of mercy.

Thanks to our Guanellian laity; they are many and generous. Among them a special appreciation goes to our Guanellian Cooperators,spread in almost all our houses They are more than 70 without counting those who are in formation. They are a blessing from God for the charism of Guanellian charity. I should also mention the three consecrated lay women belonging to the guanellian Lay Community Reina de la Paz, who have been witnesses of the charism for more than 25 years through community life and in the service of the mission in San Pablo Actipan, Mexico.

Thanks to our Guanellian sisters, who are part of our family and are present in three countries of our Province. Some of them collaborate in some of our projects and we work together in the youth vocation animation.

Special greetings to all our parishioners, the people of our centers and their families, the members of the Pious Union of San José, the group of alumni, the association Puentes ONGD that supports much of our projects, the missionary group of Puebla; greetings to our aspirants, seminarians and to our four postulants, to those who receive our magazine SERVIR, to our friends and benefactors ... To all a big hug!

Together we try to do a good work in the name of the Lord, with the style of charity of San Luis Guanella. Together we move forward toward a future rooted in the present, green like the color of hope or, even better, marked by the multicolor joyful cultural variety of our people.

Thank you, Our Lady of Guadalupe, for your company and for offering your encouragement, almost saying to each one of us: 'I am here, I am your mother!'

A hug to all, always united, as in a family, a Guanellian family. As Don Guanella was used to say: "Charity is a bond that unites hearts." Bye, bye