



To: The superiors and councilors of The Provinces and Delegation

To: The Daughters of S. Mary of Providence, Cooperators, Guanellian lay.

Dear confreres, sisters, cooperators and friends

With this communication, I want to share with you the news of the birth of a new organism of missionary animation. The Guanellian Missionary Center, solicited by our recent XX General Chapter and tasked with the coordination of the missionary animation in the whole Congregation, will depend on the general Curia of the SdC. The confrere in charge of this service is Fr. Luigi De Giambattista.

I rely on your cooperation, as individuals, communities and families so that such organism may receive a prompt welcome and contribute to strengthen our bounds of reciprocal support within our large Guanellian Family.

An all-out Missionary Animation.

'The Arc of Noah', as our first Home of Charity and Mother house of Como was frequently called, has taken aboard, during its more than centennial history, a various crowd of 'favorite children of Providence', along with a growing number of 'rowers' coming from different shores and who have pulled the boat into the deep sea, thanks to the constant blowing spirit of the Founder.

It is precisely that wind of renewed missionary spirit what our Family feels the urgent need of. Let us hear the authoritative voice of The Chapter, which, through a specific approved Motion, so expressed itself:

A Guanellian Center for Missionary animation be organized as organism depending on the general council, which aims at stimulating, sustaining and spreading the missionary sensitivity and spirituality in all areas of the Congregation, setting up a network of collaboration with all the Provinces. (XX GC, Mot.10)

A Missionary Center of the Congregation: with what functions and objectives? Once again, let us turn our attention to the Chapter indications:

Among the tasks of the GMC, we mention the following:

To offer stimuli, formative itineraries and aids to promote everywhere the guanellian missionary animation with the aim of enhancing la culture of gratuitousness in serving, the availability for mission, both 'ad intra and ad extra'; to help accompanying the consolidation process of our

most recently opened mission stations and programs; to facilitate the process of discerning and supporting among the various developments projects requesting financial assistance , those which require priority attention; to promote and extend regular coordination with our organisms of international Solidarity , such as ASCI, German Procure, Puentes..(XXGC, prop 21)

The GMC is therefore a sort of “pulsating heart”, which facilitates the circulation of stimulations and proposals, animation inputs and offering of support; on the other hand it should solicit and welcome in return suggestions, stories on our charity ministries, updates from the communities, inputs for reflection and prayer, options for cooperation, experiences of volunteers, ideas and projects promoting a better world, in line with God’s dreams and plans.

It appears immediately evident that such a project cannot be one man’s affair nor a task assigned to a few. It would not serve any purpose and would die at its very beginning.

The new Missionary Center that is now coming to birth, aims at putting Mission at the center of the life of each Guanellian and of every community. No periphery, not even the most geographically remote, should any longer be considered a mere periphery. Time has come for each one of us to get out more courageously of our own niche and to detach perhaps from a certain attitude of drowsiness in our comfortable routine, in order to re awake inside a heart of an apostle, sensitive to the universality of our Charism and eager to irradiate it around us, by involving the largest possible number of brothers and sisters in our adventure of Charity.

In other words, let us rediscover the beauty of being all ‘servants who really serve’, all called to share efforts and work in the vineyard of the Lord, perhaps on different schedules, with various methods and tools but all moved by tireless firmness of purpose and joyful creativity.

As a General Council’s organism with its main office in Rome, the CMG intends to work, since the begging, hand in hand, with each Province and Delegation by interacting with each local reality through a network of Referents indicated by their respective Councils.

The CMG chooses to operate according to the “think globally, act locally” prospective, encouraging each guanellian community in mission, in the various regions of the globe, to interact and cooperate with all those ecclesial or civic organizations present in their area and engaged in the field of evangelization and human development in line with our vision and charismatic values.

We are all convinced in fact that our involvement in enhancing the Kingdom’s mission requires the necessity of walking and working in communion; otherwise we will waste time, sow illusions and lose credibility. After all, it is the Father who goes out on mission always before and in front of us, sending ahead his Son, the brother of all, the first friend and servant of the little ones and the weak.

To all of us the challenge and the grace to put ourselves on his footsteps, as humble, limited but joyful and faithful servants.

In Charitate Christi

Rome, July 13, 2018

Fr. Umberto