

Rome, 03.05.2021

Good morning to everyone and a serene month of May, this year dedicated to St. Joseph. We opened this month precisely in memory of a work exercised by St. Joseph in his life: that of a worker. God the Father willed his Son who grew up and had to learn to live as a man, an example, a model also in his service as a worker, a man who has to support the family set up a small carpentry workshop in which Jesus also learned every day the art of the chisel, the plane(tool), the saw. Saint Paul VI in the historical visit to the Holy Land in 1964, arriving in Nazareth and visiting the places where lived Holy Family was delighted: "Oh! Abode of Nazareth, house of the carpenter's Son! Here above all we want to understand and celebrate the law, which is severe of course, but redeemer of human toil; here ennoble the dignity of work so that it is felt by all; remember under this roof that work cannot be an end in itself, but that it receives its freedom and excellence, not only from what it is called economic value, but also from what turns it to its noble end; here finally we wish to greet the workers of the whole world and show them the great model, theirs divine brother, the prophet of all just causes concerning them, that is, our Christ Lord".

When as a Guanellian I refer to the Founder I always find answers and proposals for every theme that as a man I face in everyday of life. Also in referring to Don Guanella's work, as Saint Benedict coined his motto: *Oremus et laboremus* (we pray and work). Already in "*Massime di Spirito*" Maxims of spirit and method of action, work of 1888-89, just think that in 1886 Don Guanella had opened the his first home in Como, he wrote: "Everyone must work on this earth, but the members of this Little House more assiduously. They have to work hard to obey the command of the Lord... they must labour vigorously in order to come to the rescue to the many works of mercy that Providence offers to their hands. They struggle with vigour of will, with joy of spirit ... This must be the daily commitment of each member of our family". Don Guanella had learned this lesson from his family in Fraciscio; then he had absorbed in the three years spent with Don Bosco. His hilarious two jokes that we find in the life of Don Guanella: "My good mother used to say to many of her children before and after the frugal meal: while you rest, do this service... and then do this other too ... "(1913). And to his missionary sisters he recommended: "The Venerable Don Bosco used to say: in order not to waste time, always work to do something

what else. And so do you, missionary daughters. To sleep at night, during the day even on vacation days, always do something useful to you, beneficial to you.

And again the concept of work animated by trust in God's Providence that rewards: "This is our duty. We have to work, because it is written that a we must earn a morsel of bread with the sweat of our brow. It is written that whoever works, prays! Good Father, we work and you provide bread for us to live, you will not let us lack clothe to cover us "(DLG, "*Vieni meco*" Come with me).

At the beginning of a new month, allow me to wish you an ancient Irish blessing:

"May the road open when you arrive, may the wind always blow to your shoulders, may the sun flood and warm your face, and may God keep you in the palm of the hands of him ".

To our Mother, in this month of May, we recommend all our sick people,

especially in India, in this dramatic moment in her history for the

Covid. And with Don Guanella we say: "O Mary, make us your devoted children, because belonging to you is ineffable joy, and possessing you is unfailing security "(Don Guanella).

To all Happy Month of May with Mary and Joseph.