



Guanella NEWS

Notiziario della Casa Generalizia dei Servi della Carità - Anno XX - Direzione e Redazione: Centro di Comunicazione

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Dear Brothers!

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Meeting with the Provincials and Vicars

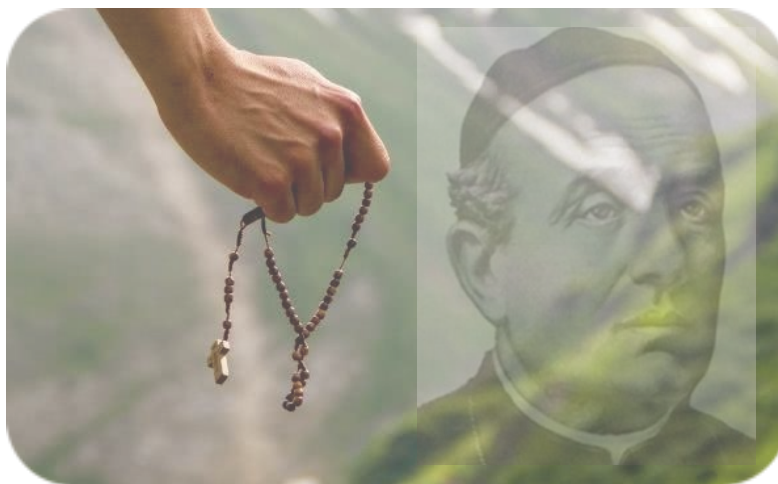
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The time of crisis in Consecrated Life

The years lived are not without meaning for the spiritual life and, with the passage of time, one realizes - if we live temporality well before God and do not let ourselves be lived... (pag.8)

In "journey" to discover the Communities

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‘Thank you very much confreres!’

Dear Brothers!

We reach you with this edition of Guanella News in a delicate and difficult moment for our communities, especially those of Italy, having the threat of Coronavirus virulently attacking the people of our neighbourhood and around the world. Civil and religious authorities have already passed laws that offer prospects of help in order to stop or reduce this scourge as much as possible. The Italian Provincial Fathers in turn have already offered the communities precise and concrete indications that, starting from the Decrees issued by the Government and the CEI, can further support our community and apostolic journey. On this point also my simple recommendation not to underestimate the situation but to be prudent and prudent all the more towards your people and those of our recipients.

In addition, I would like to extend our gratitude to all of you, also on behalf of the General Council, for what you have already done and for how much you are still studying to do more for our elderly and sick confreres and for all those who in our Houses or Centers. They are more vulnerable

because they are weak and already subject to precarious health. To all the words of the Gospel: "Whatever you have done to the least of my brothers, consider it done to me" (Mt 25:40).

Thank you very much confreres! You are showing very clearly the value of our charism of charity and belonging to the work of Don Guanella.

You can also count on our prayers and spiritual closeness. We bring you before the Lord every day, certain that where man can still do little, God can instead free the earth from this plague of suffering. May spiritual life and fraternity in our communities keep us in this sad moment of trial more than ever united in the bond of charity as brothers, open to that hope that can be glimpsed on the horizon in the mystery of Easter and that sooner or later also this year will become fullness of liberation for all.

My wish and closeness to all.

Father Umberto



In these days of suffering due to the coronavirus, we are also accompanying several sick confreres, some in serious condition. Let's remember them in prayer.

Yesterday our **Fr. Giancarlo Schievano** left us for Heaven.

We ask everyone for the suffrage for him. Being unable to do the funeral, we all get united in spirit and in the celebration in our communities on Friday morning March 13th.

A heartfelt thanks from the part of the General Council to all the Doctors and Workers present in our facilities for the commitment they are making every day in favor of the Benjamins of Divine Providence. Our gratitude is that of God: He knows how to reward more than us in graces and blessings on each of you and your families. **Thank you!**

The General Council launches a proposal to all the Guanellian communities present throughout the world: to organize in each community Eucharistic adoration either the whole day, or half a day or for a specific period of time established by the community. Let the Most Blessed Sacrament be exposed, confreres have personal prayer for this emergency coronavirus infection. Parishioners also be involved in this personal prayer and adoration where churches are open and freely the people who wish can go for a time to pray personally, without community moments which are prohibited by the authorities. Some parishes already do this! If it is possible (countries outside Italy) you can also organize this prayer event with the participation of the people. In Latin America, for example, they have already started perpetual adoration. Thus we want to intensify prayer in every community and keep us united as a Guanellian Family by the Eucharist adored while waiting to live the Eucharist celebrated together. There is a great demand for prayer and adoration from the people. Fear? Faith? This is not the time for analysis. We offer this opportunity to meet the real presence of Christ among us; it can only do everyone the good.

‘Meeting with the Provincials and Vicars’

Rome, Generalate 7-11 January 2020



The annual Meeting of the General Council with the Major Superiors of the Congregation was held at the headquarters of the General Curia in Rome.

In addition to the full general council, the provincial fathers and their vicars were present. The atmosphere that was established immediately was serene, participatory, available by everyone, even at moments of work outside the prepared official calendar.

The death of Mother Serena Ciserani gave us the opportunity to stay close to the General Council of our Sisters and share with them the sadness of this moment in their history as a Congregation. We all participated in her funeral in the Basilica of San Pancrazio and we made ourselves present in the three evenings dedicated to the prayer of the Holy Rosary in front of the remains of Mother Serena. Our Assembly sent words of condolence, closeness and participation in their pain to the General Council of the FSMP.

In the early morning, Father Alfonso Crippa gave us a rich reflection as an initial meditation at our gathering, developing two themes: gratuitousness and discernment. In the light of the Word of God and Pope Francis in the Christmas season just lived, Don Alfonso traced a path for us animators of the Congregation marked by these two attitudes.

The meeting then developed over the various days around the six themes that made up the **O.d.g.**

1). In the light of the canonical visit in progress, **the report of the Superior General** highlighted the situation of the Congregation, he discussed some symptoms of well-being and some symptoms of weakness and melancholy present in our religious family.

1)a. As **symptoms of well-being**, the Superior highlighted

- Many potentials that we still have in our communities that make us still alive and with great opportunities for growth and success;
- the vocations that the Good God gives us in India and Africa, but also in smaller numbers in Europe in Romania and Poland;

- the management of the Works still conducted by confreres and the openness to start a journey that will lead some of our lay people to this direct and primary responsibility;
- the sharing and exchange of forces between the youngest and most vacated provinces and the oldest provinces. There is good dialogue and collaboration between Provinces on this issue.
- the theme of Interculturality, which is although still in its infancy, is bearing its first good fruits. We continue to prepare the confreres who declare themselves available to leave their homeland to help other nations, but also the communities that will have to welcome them. The 20th GC gave excellent suggestions in this regard, and they are already being applied in some Provinces;
- Desire for new openings for younger provinces.

To be examined with prudence and discernment without closing ourselves to the calls that come to us from countries where we are not yet present, but always evaluating our ability to manage them in the future;

- Training to the charism. A sensitivity that is growing in young confreres and they are passionate about them. In some provinces schools on the charism have already been put on the calendar open to confreres and lay people. Excellent initiative! It would be even

more fruitful if we share texts and relations between the Provinces. The General Council collaborates with the offer of an annual reflection for Advent through the training notebooks (Charisma, Spirit).

- Relation between the General Council and Provincial Councils is a Positive opinion. Good understanding; open relationship and dialogue. Respect for the path choices of each Province. Positive opinion on the ongoing animation. Gratitude of the General Council for the Provincial Councils.

1)b. As ***symptoms of weakness and melancholy*** the Superior General listed:

- The serious illness of several confreres, and the advancement of age and the no longer complete availability of many to an active and continuous mission;
- the topic of sexual abuse of minors and infidelity to consecrated life. Worrying and shameful issue that is putting our Congregation to the test. They certainly don't do us honor. The Superior recalled the commitment to cultivate within the communities an atmosphere of friendship, confidence, and trust between the confreres with the local Superior and with the other members of the community; it is not acceptable that such serious events take place and nobody knows anything. The confrere maintains false and double relationships with the community and



adequate measures are not taken. In this field you can no longer win anything or hide certain weaknesses, you are guilty and prosecuted for condemnation by civil and canon law.

- Weak, fragile and under-cultivated relationships in local communities. Increasingly growing individualism, superficiality in relationships, divisions for cultural reasons, little mutual charity. To harm charity is to harm charisma! The Superior recalls the indications given by the XX CG: fraternal correction, formative and accompanying courses, concrete community and personal exercises.

- Mission: people praise us and recognize the work done with professionalism and concern for our recipients, instead recognize us less, for a witness of communion, fraternity and authenticity in the life of prayer and consecration. This does not honor us. As religious, the dimension of our consecration must be recovered and made shine. First, we are consecrated to the Lord who then sends us on his behalf to the poor, to the least. We are worth in our service because sent by the Father and in his name, we say words that are good and we perform true gestures of solidarity.

- We live a time of calmness also in youth and especially vocation ministry. In many communities its importance is no longer felt, perhaps even in the mediation of prayer. We feel all the weight of the counter testimony of some, of the infidelity of others, a burden that weighs on us as an impediment to say and proclaim the Gospel in its integrity because it contrasts with our life or with that of others in our community, of the province, of the Congregation. We have also lowered the attention and care in the discernment and accompaniment of the candidates and to have someone we also welcome people who are not at all suitable for the consecrated life or with evident signs of inability or impossibility to be persevering and faithful.

- We are not doing enough to promote our lay realities: MLG, Guanellian Cooperators, Families, M2G and other expressions of charismatic sharing at the lay level. How happy I would be if the Guanellian Cooperator group was born in each community in the coming years as a sign of a living charism in each of us and which needs to be transmitted, shared.

- Our Economy is still weak. We are still on the high seas on the Nova Domus issue. Suffering, especially for the two Italian provinces, continues to be felt. However, awareness of the sharing of goods and the sharing of all for the need of someone is growing.

Each Provincial then presented the situation of his own Province, highlighting the themes and problems that are mostly experienced in the communities, in the relationship between the confreres, in the intercultural dialogue where confreres from other nations have been included, in the economy, in the prophetic testimony of the consecrated life.

2). **Child abuse theme.** The Undersecretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Don Matteo Visioli, has accompanied us masterfully in the delicate and urgent reflection on this issue. Our Congregation is also experiencing painful and difficult times in this regard. The General Council is preparing some guidelines on this theme for our Congregation. Lines that then

each Province will have to adapt to its geographical and legislative reality. It will be our Congregation "protocol" for these particular situations. Yes, it requires prudence in all gestures, in relations with minors, with the vulnerable. It is not about creating psychosis, but prudence, attention in gestures and relationships with people.

3). The third theme dealt with in a transversal way was that of **interculturality**. It emerged from all the interventions that we are walking, still slowly, but with interest, concern. It is certainly not easy to welcome confreres from other nations into one's community reality, and it is not right to consider these entries only because one needs them, their service. Intercultural wealth is first and foremost wealth of authentic and positive witness of fraternity and mutual promotion within one's own communities and then on the territory for the benefit of the people.

4). We looked at **the relationship between superior of community and director of the activity**. Also for this theme, after comparing the documentation that has already been produced by the Cruz del Sur province, the Sacred Heart Province and the Roman Province of San Giuseppe, the need was felt to offer our communities some guidelines, trusting more in the relationship dialogue and understanding between the superior and the director and on the practice that can be described in the guidelines.



5). Another theme that involved us in the dialogue was that of **the reorganization of the Congregation**. Fr. Superior General presented the lines already updated in these first two years and those that are in the pipeline for construction in the next. *The Vice Province of Africa*, Our Lady of Hope, was established, detaching Africa from the Sacred Heart Province. Pending a redefinition more in line with the needs of the territory, the Confederation of

Communities was formed with a delegate *ad personam* of the Superior General (R. 284.6) which includes the nations of the Philippines, Vietnam and the Solomon Islands, detaching them from *Divine Providence Province*. On Christmas Eve the new Province *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* was born comprising 7 nations: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala. Some seminars have been closed (*Bogota*: already sold and *Porto Alegre* transformed into a Province) unifying philosophy and theology in *Tapiales*; the novitiate was moved from *Lujan* (given to the diocese) to Paraguay (Ex Casa Padre Frontini); also in Manila the formative center was concentrated in a single reality and the novitiate was transferred to *Legazpi*. The intervention of the Superior continued then offering elements and motivations to continue the

project of the reorganization at European level: Delegation first and then European Province. These motivations were offered to the provincial councils to be evaluated in order to foster a dialogue with the general council in view of the realization of the choices put in the pipeline. From the meeting with the provincial and vicar fathers, the conviction emerged that perhaps more should be done to unify the houses of formation, especially the philosophical and theological seminaries. It will be the commitment of the General Council to see what can still be done in this regard.

6). The last topic was that of the **economy** where our Don Mario Nava, bursar general, offered us valid and substantial reflections especially on the management of the houses. Healthy and innovative criteria that will allow us to re-read our presence in the works. Starting from the indications of the church in the document "*Economy at the service of charism and mission*", from some motions and proposals of our XXCG and from a study by Mother Daniela Capaccioli of the Consolata, Don Mario listed four themes: The evolution of our Charity works; when an apostolic work transmits the charism, it is evangelical; deliver the Works or revitalize them? What ways to go to make our works meaningful today? In all its necessity, the management of our works in the West has been revised and renewed. Specifically, the in-depth analysis must have the aim of reviewing the Works in the perspective of charismatic, social and economic sustainability, with the contribution of specific and suitable tools to know each area. It is hoped that in this study there will be greater convergence between the two Italian provinces.

The meeting with some representatives of the ASCI Council was also interesting. The relationship of the ASCI with the General Council of the SdC has been clarified, the procedure for the approval of the projects that local communities, always passing through the Provincial Council, can present. It was a good opportunity to remind ASCI members of their Guanellian origin, sharing the Guanellian charism, the need for Guanellian formation and spirituality. The hope is that the members of the ASCI board may also be Guanellian Cooperators to intensify their spiritual belonging to the Guanellian family in a more profound way.

This rich week ended in theological seminary with the singing of the first Vespers on Sunday and with a fraternal dinner, which was followed, as usual, by the community tombola with rich prizes, certainly for our theologians.

Father Umberto

'The time of crisis in Consecrated Life'

Reflection by Enzo Bianchi

The years lived are not without meaning for the spiritual life and, with the passage of time, one realizes - if we live temporality well before God and do not let ourselves be lived - that God acts in us through the experience that life brings us and allows us, even if failure is always possible.



The experiences sometimes are different and even negative, authentic contradictions

to our religious and Christian life. Idolatry, even if underground, remains present in us and, especially in religious life, idols are not external but internal, they are the ones we unconsciously carry in our hearts: idolatry is like a very active germ, little known but such who suddenly tries to overcome the word of God that we carry in us as a seed (cf. 1Pt 1,23). The virtues, generosity, desires for perfection and holiness, prayer itself can become ways of running away from God, of not listening to his voice today; even what we do for others, our service to the poor or to the Church can be a foreign device to our deepest self, far from God and from the true voice of our heart. They are frequent risks in religious life and we must be aware of them to watch over and unmask them: in any case, sooner or later, God suddenly intervenes in our life to bring down these idols and tear them to pieces.

It is then the crisis, and when it comes it really goes to the bottom! In religious life in particular, it is extremely difficult to stay in above ground or to get by at the worst. If we think we can avoid the crisis and always remain on our feet, we are deluded: there may be physical or mental illness, the fall into sin and the contradiction of the vows made, the problems posed by fraternal life or the tensions caused by external environment ... But this crisis, so hard to deal with, can also turn into a grace for us: this visit by God is never "beautiful", rather it takes on the characteristics of suffering and laceration, but always remains a occasion - perhaps the only one - in which God demands from us a more radical undressing in order to be able to clothe ourselves with his grace. God wants us to abandon our idols, our projections on him to meet him as He is: devouring and medical fire of our wounds. The crisis is then the moment in which meditation, adoration, prayer, everything loses its meaning. Even our service to the poor and to the church does not seem to have consistency and the Christian vocation seems to us very little. We suffer from a failure of all spiritual efforts and we no longer have the strength to even abandon ourselves to God. In some

cases we come to say that God is dead and nothing seems to reign: God appears an illusion; he is distant, silent, deaf, blind ...: "Lord, why are you sleeping?" (Ps 44.24). In these moments the first temptation is that of escape, of abandoning religious life. Sometimes this temptation occurs even before you have the perception of the crisis, as when you enter a tunnel following another car, without realizing it: in the midst of the crisis it then becomes

It is difficult to improvise a coherent reaction, instead you have to prepare yourself first, not be surprised, and this is also part of learning to "count your days". In reality, before the escape from religious life, there is the escape from oneself, the refusal to look at one: in the unwellness not yet perfectly focused one thinks first of all to accuse others, to find the blame outside oneself themselves, in structures, in brothers and sisters. Then it turns out that the congregation is no longer faithful to the original charism or that it is no longer in step with the times, that the brothers are devoid of charism and make the quality of the unbearable life. While not reforming oneself, one then pretends to reform the congregation, or asks for the change of fraternity convinced that in another place things will get better, the problem of unsuitability for the climate, environmental reality, urgent problems is invoked who lives his own family of blood ... His restlessness is projected into new forms of life, sometimes more contemplative, other times more mixed with the poor: in order to escape from themselves, we run towards the hermitage or towards the poor.

Another temptation that comes with the crisis is that of stopping, of falling behind, fossilizing in the lifestyle lived up to that moment: in an attempt to hide one's inner anguish one takes refuge in an obsessive attachment to one's principles, to the rules established, to the discipline adopted, to consolidated practices, to written regulations. It is a great danger for religious life: one attaches oneself to one's own practice and principles and no longer advances together with others. Then one becomes hard, constantly reproaches others, and condemns them as unfaithful to religious life, in the presumption of being the only faithful to the initial charism: the convictions that one has become more important than the brothers and the meeting of today with the 'today of God. We are perched in a position of defense against all that - like our brothers - could be an instrument of call from God; you end up becoming more and more concerned about yourself and your health and you refuse to take into consideration others, to the point that, when you really fall ill, you want not to heal in order to remain in the center of general attention .It is an anguished



attachment to oneself in which one is no longer capable of abandonment either to God or to whom God has placed alongside as the responsible and witness of the vows made.

If the crisis does not have the outcome desired by God, that is, regeneration, then those who have fallen into it end up closing more and more in themselves, unable to accept their brothers and sisters, prevented from opening themselves to the future: they just have to leave religious life, often returning significantly to the family, where there is always a mother to care for, a father to bury ...

Many aspects would remain to be explored, but I think I have outlined the essential and most frequent features of the crisis in religious life today. Essential is never to forget that the crisis, in its deepest truth, is a gift of God and grace, even in trial: if one does not escape, does not flee but accepts to be regenerated, then the crisis is transformed into a new birth, then the God known by hearsay, having cut down the idols, appears and in our weakness shows his strength (cf. Job 42: 2-6). It is a question of growing through temptation: there is no faith that is not proven; just as there is no fruit if the tree is not pruned (cf. Jn 15.2). It is a question of reconciling oneself with one's weakness, of identifying oneself in the publican at the temple, of knowing one's past and entrusting it to the mercy of God. The God whom one comes to know after the crisis is then a God the Father and Mother, the merciful God and faithful.

Three practical applications for our life review

in this time of Lent:

a). "Idols are not external but internal; they are the ones we unconsciously carry in our hearts". Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have repeated to us that evil is within us, not outside of us.

- Which idol present in my life for a long time do I want to eradicate on this Easter?

b). Some confreres left our Congregation and unfortunately also the priesthood, motivating their choice with: **I have not found a family atmosphere in our religious communities.**

- What is the family atmosphere in my community?

- What do I personally do to help him? What should I avoid instead?

c). The crisis can be experienced as a gift of God and grace even in trial.

- I agree with this thesis?

- Am I ready to support with my friendship, as well as with prayer and a good example, the confrere of my community who manifests symptoms of crisis?

- Or do I prefer to lose interest and leave it to itself?

«In “journey” to discover the Communities»

«First Family Home "GIFT OF THE HEART" in Poland»



It is true that Providence for Guanellians often passes through the dates of the Marian feasts. So it was with the donation of the land in Skawina to the Opera Don Guanella! It was precisely on March 24, 2004, on eve of the Annunciation, but for us Guanellians, anniversary of the birth of our Congregation, when I received the news that the two spouses Giovanni and Sofia Sajdera wanted to

offer us a large and pleasant ground in the outskirts of Krakow, in Skawina. It was the first sign of Providence. But with Providence there is no joking! Therefore, I thought!

Another sign of Providence was linked with the search for architects to make the house project. Exactly on 8th December 2004, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Providence indicated us through a friend of the Congregation. This gentleman from Naples told us about his family who has an architect's office in Krakow. And so it was: we chose that construction company, which even partially built the sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Cracow-Lagiewniki, a sanctuary so dear to St. John Paul II: I am sure it was he who showed us to come right here. In the meantime, Providence has opened the sky to us, from where, like rain, the offers for the construction came.

But this is now history!

The Centrum Don Guanella in Skawina opens, with the blessing of the house, on 22 October 2009, in the month in which the mysteries of the Holy Rosary are meditated and our Founder is celebrated. Our chapel, dedicated to the Mother of Divine Providence, although not very large, welcomes hundreds of people who come to pray with us on Sundays and solemn feasts, for the Masses, at 9.00 am and 11.00 am. Providence has left us a new direction of pastoral care. In the woods and meadows around, new houses are springing up and for their inhabitants. We are becoming a point of reference for Christian prayer and witness. Apart from the Holy Masses various prayer meetings are organized, such as *Lectio Divina*, and once a month, the *Discoteca del Silenzio*. By a group of forty elderly people called "Young in the Spirit" has also been created, who come regularly for catechesis and prayer.

In the house there is obviously a part reserved for the religious and educational community. We currently have two postulants. Their formation passes through formative conferences, the study

of the two-year philosophy at the University of Krakow and, in the other moments free from study, they do the charitable service in the family home.

Another initiative of the *Centrum Don Guanella* are the meetings with the young people of the country during which the various films are presented on the problems of the value of life and other current and common interest issues. Then follows the discussion and debate. In addition, there are various moments of pleasant encounters around a barbecue or spaghetti; moments in which adults and young people from the country participate to be together, creating a wide circle of friendships. This circle of friendships gives us the opportunity to spread the Guanellian charism. There is also our availability towards the needs of the surrounding parishes and this creates a good mutual relationship.

The house, especially in the summer months, welcomes the various prayer groups (such as, the renewal of the Holy Spirit and other ecclesial



movements) and gives opportunity to find a resting place or a campsite here. Some religious choose our home for monthly retreats (the Comboni fathers) and for spiritual exercises. Our house has been inscribed recently on the list of spirituality houses in the diocese. Every year the association of drug addicts makes a verification and prayer meeting in our Center.

The confreres are engaged in various structures of state as consultants in the field of education, such as the center of aid for families in crisis.

On the opposite side of the section of religious, there is the family house called "The Gift of Heart". As per December 1, 2010, it has hosted 10 teenagers and children sent by the Krakow children's court. Educators Basia and Asia, and Kamil help the director, Brother Marcin. Every morning after the prayers the community wakes up the children helps them to wash and get ready, and then prepares breakfast with Don Jarek and provides for the departure to various schools because our children attend 5 different schools. Over the past ten years, we have hosted 18 young people, who are now part of social and family life of which some are already with their families. Remembrance and friendship have always remained strong and lasting.

As soon as the family home started, a circle of friends and volunteers was created. And now, there are about ten young volunteers who come to offer their hearts, time and skills to these "treasures" of ours. They organize trips to the cinema and swimming pool, excursions and trips to go skiing in the nearby mountains and to visit the museums of Krakow. They animate games for them and help them with their schoolwork. When needed, they also fix something that has gone bad at home.

Centrum Don Guanella has been working for 10 years testifying to the Guanellian charism in the territory of *Skawina*. The example of the Founder pushes us to "be like a fiery sword in the Holy

Ministry of God", especially if you start in the new country, in the new reality. Supported by the certainty of divine help and spurred on by the need of the poor that we must also go to seek, this commitment becomes for us a continuous challenge that challenges us and makes us bring out the best in ourselves. In this regard, I want to recall here the words of John Paul II: *Today's world needs radical witnesses of true love, of sharing with others, especially when it is marked by pain and suffering*". Dear friends! Today we ask you only one thing: pray for our first community in Poland so that it can always be formed



and animated by true and tireless "Samaritans" on the roads of Poland, because as St. Louis Guanella taught us, the world needs witnesses authentic and coherent, capable of giving up a comfortable life to be close to the poor who are everywhere.

Don Wieslaw Baniak, sdc

Next **March 26** we will remember with joy and gratitude to the Lord the **20th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Mgr. José Protegenes Luft**. It is a great gift of the Spirit to our Congregation and to the Church. A Guanellian called by the Lord to be shepherd of a poor and humble people in the Amazon zone. Are we not proud of it!

Our fraternal wishes and assurance of our prayers to Dom Protogenes. May the Spirit continue to illuminate you and instill in you the courage and strength necessary to stand before the people and lead them by example and authority of life towards the Kingdom of the Lord. Ad multos annos from your religious family! (diobarra@uol.com.br)



'New organizational structures, new mission faces'



As part of the reorganization of the internal administrative structures of the Congregation indicated by the Chapter, the process of unification of the three Latin American Provinces into the single Province 'Our Lady of Guadalupe' concluded on 24 December 2019. At this juncture in 2020 we arrive at two successive steps, to continue the journey so that even our governing structures reflect always better the reality of our

Congregation which, although small in numbers, is rather extensive and diversified by geography of mission and origin of the confreres.

The first step will take place in the coming months. **The European Delegation 'St. Luigi Guanella'** will be officially erected. After a discernment process which involved, in addition to the General Council, the St. Joseph Roman Province and the concerned confreres with a consultation, a decision was made to join the houses of Spain into a delegation dependent on the General Council (Palencia, Madrid, Arca), Germany (Pforzheim), Poland (Skawina) and Romania (Iasi). The nineteen confreres of these houses will therefore be coordinated and animated in their religious life and mission by a 'Council of Delegation' composed of a superior delegate and two councilors. The activity of this council will be officially initiated as soon as the coronavirus situation grants us the possibility.

A second step will be the erection of the **'Stella Maris' Delegation** from the Far East / Oceania, including the communities of the Philippines, Vietnam and the Solomon Islands, also dependent on the General Council. Until now these communities were simply coordinated by an "ad personam" delegate. After the necessary consultation in progress, a 'Council of Delegation' will be appointed composed of a superior and two councilors, to guide the life and mission of the more than thirty confreres (including 17 of perpetual vows) who make up these communities. The official start of the council activity will take place in the next month of July.

Also, in the ambit of **mission** there are some newness in view:

- The General Council accepted the request for the Missionaries of Charity to transfer their 'Center for the Disabled' in **Bucharest**. These are Good children collected by the Sisters and cared for several years, in a house that the Archdiocese now offers us as property. The handover

will take place within two years, in the meantime the time the structure will be revived and the confreres will be prepared who will take charge of this second presence in Romania.

- The 'Divine Providence' province will start a mission activity in a few months in collaboration with the Claretians in a 'Center for the disabled' in Vavuniya, **Sri Lanka**. It is fairly a complex organization, including a 'male residential center', a 'female' one and a network of support and rehabilitation on the territory (Community Based Program). For three years the confreres will follow the male residential part, in the meantime studying the opportunities to take on this mission or start an autonomous one, in a nation and in a particularly welcoming local Church. In the recent visit made on the spot by Brother Franco together with the members of the provincial council, there were two of our sisters FSMP, to evaluate the possibility of carrying out a project of common apostolic activity between the two branches of the Guanellian religious family.



24March, 1908 "The First Profession of the Servants of Charity"

Thus wrote Don Guanella: *"On this evening, having given a preparatory preaching Triduum, in accordance with the norms of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, in fulfillment of the desire expressed and cultivated, the undersigned came to the celebration of simple perpetual vows in the Institute of the Servants of Charity in the following order. The Priest Luigi Guanella as founder made perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, obedience according to the Constitutions received and rearranged by the Consultor Rev. Fr. Benedetti Claudio of the 'Liguorini' in Rome and printed in 1907 with types of the Typography of the 'Casa della Divina Provvidenza'. Thereafter, the above mentioned received the profession of simple perpetual vows of the following in the presence of the witnesses mentioned at footnote."*

We continue with our discreet presence, in the most disparate places, to take care of the most fragile and defenseless human life and work for its integral promotion, dealing daily with old and new poverty.



**GLOBAL COMPACT
ON EDUCATION**

An African proverb states that *"an entire village is needed to educate a child". But we have to build this village as a condition for education. The land must be reclaimed from discrimination with the introduction of fraternity.*

(Pope Francesco)

On 15 October 2020, Pope Francis has invited representatives of the main religions, representatives of international bodies and various humanitarian institutions, from the academic, economic, political and cultural world to the Vatican. Together, representing the inhabitants of the Earth, they will sign the **"Global Compact on Education"**, a global educational pact, which everyone will undertake to implement in their own area and spread as much as possible. The journey has begun. Many schools, Catholic and non-Catholic universities, are already studying the anthropological, communicative, cultural, economic, generational, interreligious, pedagogical and social dimension of this Global Compact.

The aim is to educate young people to fraternity, to learn how to overcome divisions and conflicts, to promote welcome, justice and peace. Pope Francis invites anyone who cares about the education of the younger generations to sign a **Global Pact**, to generate a change of mentality on a planetary scale through education.

Clive Staples Lewis:

"The task of a modern educator is not to cut the jungles but to irrigate the deserts"

Mahatma Gandhi:

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever"



***In view of the world meeting of Young
Guanellians***

GYM - GUANELLIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

To prepare for the 2022 world meeting (in Santiago first, among us and in Lisbon afterwards, with the Pope) we are sending all work sheets for group work to all the confreres who work with young people. After the work sheet on the fatherhood of God, we have sent the second work sheet on Jesus, Good Samaritan, by e-mail to the Provincials and those in charge of Youth Ministry. It is an attempt wanting to walk together on the same Guanellian topics to get ready for that event. If we all work on the same goal of the **GYM'22** (Guanellian Youth Movement), with the same elements of Guanellian spirituality, we will arrive better prepared to face the theme of that meeting: **"From young Guanella to young Guanellians"**.

Consecration Events



News and Events of the Consecration

✓ On January 25, three young men entered the novitiate in Asunción: **Sávio da Silva Soares** and **Emanuel Bianchini Galuk** (Brazilians) and **Jhonatan Eduardo Tavolo Benitez** (Paraguayan). Fr. **Ciro Attanasio**, recently appointed Provincial Superior of this province "Nuestra Señora del Guadalupe", presided over the rite of entry into the novitiate, introducing their Novice master, Fr. **Sergio Rojas Franco** to the novices.

✓ On the same day in the Church of Our Lady of La Piedad (Paraguay), Fr. **Ciro** presided over the Eucharist where two young **Yumar Laguado Ortiz** (Colombia) and **Railton Dos Santos Holanda** (Brazil) made their first religious profession.

✓ On March 28 in Nnebukwu the **novices** make their first religious profession in the hands of the superior of the African Vice Province, Fr. **Kelechi Maduforo**.

✓ **Brother Roger Genovia** will renew religious vows on March 26, 2020, (Filippine).

✓ On April 25, 2020, in the Theological Seminary of Rome, the confreres **ALEXCIS Francis Xavier**, **IERKPEN TERKULA Patrick**, **ILLUMU KIBUBA Gabriel Sedar**, **KATIBINI ABUPA Fabrice**, **LOUIS Praveen Raj**, **MARIANATHAN Bosco Yesuraj**, **MARI ANTHUVAN Arun, Kumar**, **PACKIAM Kulandai**, **PILLA Vijay Kumar**, **RAYAPPAN Solomon Raja**, **RUSSIAN John**, **SEBASTHIYAN Arokianathan**, **SOLOMON Stalin**, **UMFINAMA NTENDA Gabriel** will make their Perpetual Profession, in the hands of the Superior General, Fr. **Umberto Brugnoni**.

✓ The following day, April 26, **the professed brothers** will receive the Sacred Order of the Diaconate through the laying on of hands and the consecratory prayer of HE Card. **João Braz de Aviz**, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of consecrated life and the Societies of apostolic life.

✓ On 6-7 June 2020 the Patronato Santo Antônio celebrates the **70th anniversary of its foundation in Carazinho** (Brazil).

✓ On July 27 the **Nossa Senhora de Nazaré Parish**, Anchieta (Brazil) celebrates its centenary of life and apostolate

✓ On August 4, **Fr. Tiago Boufleur** celebrates 10 years of priestly ordination in Tapiales (Argentina).

✓ On December 19, **Fr. Ivo Cataneo** celebrates his 50 years of priestly ordination in Santa Maria (Brazil)

Dates of the next General councils:

April 21-22, 2020 - General Council

May 19-20, 2020 - General Council

16-17 June 2020 - General Council



In the Father's House



Deceased Confreres

- ✓ On 19 January **Don Giuseppe Minuzzo** died in our Casa Madonna del Lavoro in Nuova Olonio (SO). He was 88 years old. His body was buried in the Nuova Olonio Cemetery.
- ✓ On 12 February our 38-year-old brother **Don Maria Bala Yesu Vissampalli** died in Eluru (Andhra Pradesh), India. He was ordained priest August 2017.
- ✓ March 11, is dead, in the Casa Divina Providencia in Como, **Don Giancarlo Schievano**, 78 years old. The body was buried in the Confratelli Chapel in the Como Cemetery.



Deceased Sisters

- ✓ On 18 December 2019 the Guanellian **Sister Germana Checchinato** died in Como-Lora at the age of 91.
- ✓ On January 27 **Sr. Anna Bartucci** died in Cosenza at 97 years old. From 1982 to 1989 he served at the S. Giuseppe Hospital in Rome.



Deceased Family Members

- ✓ On 18 December 2019, in Mbaise (Imo State - Nigeria), at the age of 77, **Mrs. Beatrice Uche**, mother of our brother Uche Anayo don Mark, passed away.
- ✓ On December 26, 2019, **Mr. Lorenzo Sabatelli**, father of Don Francesco, passed away at the age of 81, in Pozzo Faceto di Fasano (Brindisi), Italy.
- ✓ **Mr. Eshayya** (54 years old), the maternal uncle of our brother Don Peter Joseph is December 29, 2019.
- ✓ At the age of 87, **Mrs. Adele Marcato**, the mother of Fr Agostino Frasson in Arluno (Milan), Italy, returned to the Lord on January 2, 2020.
- ✓ On January 13, **Mrs. Vishenthiyammal** (85 years old), the grandmother of our confrere Fr. Antony Rajan died in Vadakku Vandanam (India).
- ✓ On January 26, 2020, in Verdello, at the age of 91, **Mrs. Carla Morelli**, sister of Don Giuseppe Morelli, died.
- ✓ On 3 February 2020 in Cantù (Italy), at the age of 76, **Mr. Giancarlo Valisi**, father of our brother Brother Ivano Valisi, passed away.
- ✓ On February 5, 2020, **Ms. Lydia Mary Melaba**, the mother of Don David Melaba, died in Gboko (Benue State), Nigeria.
- ✓ On February 6, **Mrs. Fatima Mary**, the mother of Fr Jerin Antony Irudayaraj, on a mission to Vietnam died at the age of 62. She passed away in Rayappanpatty, India.
- ✓ On February 22, the grandmother of Fr Stalin Arockiaraj Savarimuthu, **Mrs. Innaciammal**, 90 years old, died in Kottarapatti (Tamil Nadu), India.
- ✓ On March 3, 2020, **Mr. Dennis Akamnonu**, 87, the father of our confrere Fr Innocent Chukwunonye Akamnonu, died in Umunoha in Mbaitoli, (Imo State) in Nigeria.




In the time of Lent and in the days of the Passion, the priest and the altar dress themselves in a clothing of deep sorrow and with a high groan they invite: " Weep all of you, denounce, because the Just, the Holy they led him to Calvary on the cross. Come all of you, let us adore Jesus on the cross and mourn for our mistakes. "But from Good Friday to Easter of Resurrection the passage is short. Priest and altar at the dawn of the third day return with full of ineffable joy." He is risen - they exclaim – He is risen. Alleluia, alleluia, come, let us worship the Lord. He has risen gloriously from the dead ".

Priest and altar adorn themselves in a very festive golden color, reading the epitaph described by the angel on the tomb of the Savior and saying: "Jesus is risen". In short, priest and altar point to the glory of Jesus triumphant. They show us the triumph of Jesus who ascends to heaven and gives us hope to say: " High above our hearts, always high above our hearts.

To heaven! To heaven! "What a school, Oh brothers. What happiness for us if we are waiting for it"

(San Luigi Guanella, in "Come with me")

Happy Easter!



Signore Gesù,
Salvatore del mondo,
speranza che non ci deluderà mai,
abbi pietà di noi e liberaci da ogni male!

Ti preghiamo di vincere
il flagello di questo virus,
che si va diffondendo,
di guarire gli infermi, di preservare i sani,
di sostenere chi opera per la salute di tutti.

Mostraci il Tuo Volto di misericordia
e salvaci nel Tuo grande amore.

Te lo chiediamo per intercessione di Maria,
Madre Tua e nostra,
che con fedeltà ci accompagna.

Tu che vivi e regni nei secoli dei secoli.

Amen.

+ *Bruno Forte*

