



Guanella NEWS

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'Voluntary service in a Religious Community'

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Guanellian Cooperators World Elective Assembly

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In "journey" to discover the Communities

Romania is a Country with a large prevalence of Orthodox population, about ninety percent of the faithful.... (pag.6)

"19 December - 177° Birth Anniversary of Don Luigi Guanella"

For several years the Guanellian family celebrated the Intercontinental Mass on the occasion of the birthday of San Luigi Guanella... (pag.8)



'Voluntary service in a Religious Community'

A few days ago, I read on the September issue of the magazine Testimoni an article that was captivating right from its title: *A year of voluntary service in a convent*. What is it about? Simply a voluntary service of three to twelve months in a religious community. It is an initiative of the German Bishops Conference, initially called "*Convent ad tempus*" and that was very limited, similar to our "come-and-see" with some weekends spent in the community. Now, seeing the good outcome of this proposal, the invitation has become more demanding: from a minimum of three months and up to one year, for young persons of any age. The motivation of the experience is relevant: "*The aim of this Year of voluntary service is not to increase the numbers of those who enter the convents. Rather, there can be a mutual exchange benefiting both those who do the experience and the religious communities. These last ones in a special way. Suddenly, communities have the opportunity to face other issues, to see totally different persons and ways of thinking, and this makes them more lively*" (Ruth Pucher and Maria Stadler).

During my canonical visitation to many Guanellian

communities scattered throughout the world, I had firsthand experience of how difficult and delicate is still the aspect of interculturality in our life, and how many difficulties arise in the relationship of confreres living in the same community but coming from different geographical areas, cultures, lifestyle, habits, attitudes. We are just at the beginning of this challenge that our 20th GC gave us as the experience that must be accomplished in our Guanellian communities. The exhortation given to all, during this canonical visitation, was clear: let move forward, let us not be discouraged nor give up when we face difficulties, that will always be present. This is the right path that the 20th GC pointed out as our way to be prophets and faithful to our charism today. Goodness always finds it difficult to come out, it takes patience, perseverance, and determination!

Could these news from the German Church suggest us something about this? Could the fact of welcoming in our houses people who are not consecrated religious help us to break the shell of our nationalism, of our habits typical of religious life, that we have been wearing for so long and find hard to divest? I am not campaigning in favour of the German Bishops Conference proposal; the practical conclusions are in the hands of the "authorised personnel", both Provincial Superiors and animators of GYM and vocations pastoral. But I would like to invite all of you, confreres, to consider this possible opening and welcoming in our communities. It is not a new invitation. Looking at the journey of the Guanellian laity for the past 40 years, of our Cooperators, for example, so many appeals from Chapters, from Superiors have come to open our religious communities for prayer, sharing, work with the laity. And we must say that something has been done! Why not continue?

Now we are not talking specifically of young persons who are coming for a vocational discernment, even: this may not be the first reason presented. We talk of young persons and adults who knock at our communities' doors for a period, searching for serenity, internal peace, sharing of gifts, while they try to understand consecrated life with its hopes, joys, and difficulties. Why should we be afraid of showing also our difficulties, our present limitations, our hopes and dreams that often remain in our heart without a practical expression? We are not already saints nor perfect, we are moving forward towards the high and beautiful goals of Christian life, that are the same goals for families and young people today. Let us struggle together to reach holiness.

We should not push aside the idea of a possible experience like this as another hassle in our community life. Surely, welcoming in our house people without experience of religious and community life is not easy at all, but the reasons for this search can be diversified. We should think of how enriching it could be for our communities for all aspects: fraternity, communication, sharing of work, support, direct contact with life outside our houses, comparing choices made by the religious and by lay families. And also seeing religious poverty and family poverty, with direct experience of people living with also economic hardship, finding out what is not necessary in our houses, making our witness of poverty fade away. We should also think of how much good we can do for these people, this is what the Church is asking us, by following the laity in their formation, in awakening



in them the value of their service in the Church and in the world as baptised and sent. This is the little good that we can do, and the Founder wanted for him and for his children to do. We should not forget that in the Founder's vision the idea of the Guanellian family in his houses was very clear. Forced by Rome, he changed the way, but in his heart, in the light received by the Spirit there was this unity, this way of living together.

The two lay Salesians who spoke to our Cooperators gathered in Rome to elect the World Council of their Association threw a provocation. Drawing from the document of the Italian Bishops Conference "on the footsteps of Aquila and Priscilla" they gave us a firsthand witness of how enriching is this life shared between lay and consecrated persons. It is a formative mutual exchange of growth, able to interact and live together in spite of different perspectives, each offering the gift received from the Spirit and useful for all. An illusion? An unrealistic experience? A fruit of imagination?

Let it remain, anyhow, as a provocation for those who want to take up the challenge and give it a trial!

Christmas is approaching. To all of you, confreres and communities, to the persons living in our houses and the lay collaborators I send the happy and hope-filled wish to welcome Him, the Child of Bethlehem, in our life as the ideal and the goal of sure perfection.

With love and gratitude: Merry Christmas to all!

Padre Umberto

Date of General Council meetings

10 december 2019 - council
 7-11 january 2020 Provincial and Vicar meetings
 17 january 2020 - Council general
 25-26 february 2020 - council
 24-25 march 2020 - council
 21-22 april 2020 - council
 19-20 may 2020 - council
 16-17 june 2020 - council



100 anni fa avveniva l'ingresso ufficiale in via Aurelia Antica. Il 19 ottobre del 1919 da Monte Mario, su carri e carrette, alcuni vecchi invalidi, ragazzi orfani e disabili, guidati da don Giovanni Calvi, entravano in Via Aurelia e prendevano possesso di "villa" Rossini, subito poi indicata come "casa vecchia".

Guanellian Cooperators World Elective Assembly

Rome, November 12-16, 2019

About thirty Guanellian Cooperators from different parts of the world (India, Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Columbia, Mexico, Spain, Romania, and Italy) gathered in Rome together with the Religious delegates of the DSMP and SC to elect the new World council of the Guanellian Cooperators.

This was the First World Elective Assembly of the Cooperators, that are the third branch of the Guanellian Family, and this Assembly produced also some **“Guidelines for a Program”** i.e. some indications on what the World Council shall accomplish.

To attain this goal, the members by right and the Religious delegates were involved in pointing out some substantial issues to be discussed; the local groups were also involved by means of a form to be answered with a group work. All these aim to strengthen the Guanellian Cooperators Association and to grant its evangelical and charismatic witness in the Church and in the World.

Let us move forward together the DSMP, the SC, and the GC as a family, on this journey of

growth, trusting in Our Lady of Divine Providence, as the founder wrote: *“It is not against, but according to humility, when we desire great things for the greater glory of God. The members of the Little House should direct to this goal the affections of their minds, the desires of their hearts, and all the best of their works”* (Maxims of spirit and Method of action).

The guidelines received by the World Council in this Assembly are a sort of **“Guidelines for a Program for the six years ahead”**, following what is stated in the Statutes, and give suggestions:

- about charismatic identity: “give general orientations for initiatives on vocations, formation, apostolate, organization, and administration”;
- about relationship: “grant a world-wide animation using specific communication media”;
- about mission: “prepare and coordinate solidarity initiatives on a world scale”.

The days before the election were rich of times of study and sharing the life of Guanellian Cooperators and the founding principles of the Statutes. There were moments for dialogue, presentation of experiences of service, and opportunities for mutual acquaintance: the cultural



night with our seminarians at the theological seminary “Bacciarini”; the Papal audience, the film interpreted by our Good Children, the encounter with the youth of St. Joseph at Trionfale; the fraternal agape at the House St. Pius X of the DSMP. The Assembly took off at St. Mary at Nocetta with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration in honour of St. Mary mother of Divine Providence, presided by H.E. Paolo Ricciardi for Health Pastoral. The closing solemn ceremony was presided by the Superior General SC, Fr. Umberto Brugnoli, with the presence of Mother Serena and all the Cooperators in Rome, who renewed their promise. During this ceremony, Fr. Umberto, through his words in the homily and through the gesture of kissing the Founder’s relic and handing over the text of the Guidelines, gave somehow the mandate to the newly elected Council members:

PAOLO SIVIERI (Brazil) President;

ANTONIO VALENTINI (Italy) Councillor and Vice-president;

MARTA ABBRUZZESE (Argentina) Councillor and Secretary;

DOMNIC TILAK (India) Councillor and Treasurer;

IVONA AGNES SĂPUNARU (Romania) Councillor.

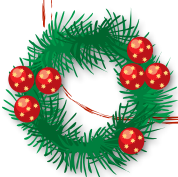
We are well aware that **“our works should be pondered, desired, discussed, and accomplished”**, the sentence by Don Guanella that was the Assembly’s title, we entrust all to the Saints of our family, with confidence in the caring protection of Mary mother of Divine Providence.

Don Nico



The Superior General and his Council wish all the Confreres a Holy Christmas!
May the Child Jesus carry in our communities the gifts expected in prayer and
the fruits hoped for in the apostolate.

*“Animated by the sweetest hope, I wish you a very delighted and blessed Holy
Christmas. Your most affectionate Priest in the Lord Luigi Guanella”.*
Christmas 1914



In “journey” to discover the Communities

“News from our community of IAȘI, Romania”

MISSION ALWAYS MEANS TO GO TO OPEN UP TO OTHERS AS BROTHERS, TO DISCOVER AND MEET THEM

Romania is a Country with a large prevalence of Orthodox population, about ninety percent of the faithful. Only after the fall of Berlin Wall the Catholics begun being visible. The Guanellian seed was sown in Romanian soil by our sisters, who are running services for the aged, for young women and children. We as Servants of Charity arrived in 2012 at Iasi, where we are working with our seminarians who want to prepare themselves for Guanellian consecrated life. There are ten seminarians doing initial formation, two of them are getting ready for Postulate. We try to give importance to “looking for what is essential” for our Guanellian vocation, giving prominence to the three existential dimensions: the human, Christian, and Guanellian dimension, so that Christ will be formed in us.

As missionary attention in Romania we are more and more open to the poor who are living at the outskirts of the city of Iasi and, like St. Louis Guanella was inspired by the paralytic appeal, “*Lord, I have no one*” (Jn. 5:7) we are also deeply urged by the appeal of the homeless. They are “invisible” because nobody wants to see them. But for us Guanellians they are more and more numerous and recognisable.



At Iasi, as in other Romanian cities, there is a large number of people who have no stable dwelling, people who lost their job after the large factories of the Communist regime were closed, and were not able to migrate in search for a job as millions of Romanian did. It is an urgent need for – according to some surveys – about 500 persons in Iasi living on the road, without a home and without human dignity. These homeless persons live in huts, in ravines, squares, walkway, sleeping under street tunnels, in public parks or in empty burial niches in the graveyards. The recent European laws about services for the children, moreover, caused many young persons who turn eighteen years of age to be automatically dismissed from government institutions, without finding support from their relatives, living in very poor conditions in rural areas. These young persons very soon find themselves living on a street. Finally, people living on the street suffer also the pain of being cut off from a proper participation to the life of the community and from establishing valid human relations. Several years ago our Sisters opened a daily free canteen that continues serving many of them. We, with our seminarians, started approaching these people, trying to “touch them” and accompany them, for the little we can do.

THE PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

Observing, listening, accompanying

We meet them, get to know them and note their situation to reach a practical support and help, listening to their demands, priorities, needs. We try to take responsibility and to involve persons and institutions.

Human and Pastoral Animation

Through some manual work in the garden, through creating awareness, and with spiritual animation.

Distribution of foodstuff

Throughout the wintertime, we go to take food to people living at the public square "Piata Nicolina".

Shower, laundry, haircut, clothing

Personal hygiene is a real problem for one who has no home. We offer in our house a service of shower and laundry. Those who come to bathe receive clean clothes and can wash and iron their clothes. We provide inner and outer clothes, and shoes. There is also a barber.



In a more complete project for the future, we would like to help these persons with a centre that can welcome them and help them grow through a program of formation and social and professional re-integration. The first step is to offer a shelter for the night. Last year we tried to do it in a cabin close to the house, but we had the local police suggested that we should close because of fire hazard. Actually, a fire destroyed the public dormitory, so that during this period (2018 – 2019) these persons had to stay under the bridges. As soon as possible the Servants of Charity would like to prepare a wing of the building containing:

- four rooms, avoiding very large dormitories that induce more easily to behaviour problems and fights;
- SC, showers, and laundry
- medical dressing room and sick bay;
- a small office and a meeting room for the long and cold winter evenings.
- a bakery to start some social activity.

All this could give room to 18 to 35 persons, both men and women.

Don Bakthis

“19 December - 177° Birth Anniversary of Don Luigi Guanella”

For several years the Guanellian family celebrated the Intercontinental Mass on the occasion of the birthday of San Luigi Guanella. Also, this year the Eucharist will be celebrated for the following intentions:

- 1) For the health of Mother Serena. Lord You who called her to be the guide of the Daughters of Saint Mary of Providence support her in this stage of her life, with Your grace and the strength of Your blessing. Let's pray.
- 2) For the DSMP that are preparing for their General Chapter. May the Holy Spirit illumine the minds of our sisters so that they will know how to array themselves in prayer and discernment to receive His light and His will. Let's pray.
- 3) For the new World Council of Guanellian Cooperators. Thank you, Lord, for this organism called to animate the Guanellian laity according to the Charism and the Spirit of the Holy Founder. Help them and assist them in this precious task of consolidating the Association for an evangelical and charismatic witness in the Church and in the world. Let's pray.
- 4) For the new Province "Our Lady of Guadalupe" which finds its beginning precisely in the time of the memory of Christ's Christmas in our midst. Your birth, O Lord, be a blessing and orientation to welcome each other as Your gift. Let's pray.
- 5) For the 'House of St. Joseph- Rome, that remembers with gratitude its Centenary of foundation. May this "Citadel of Charity", as Saint John Paul II called it, continue to indicate in their area the value of respect and promotion of each person. Let's pray.

Where possible, we offer you the schedule for the celebrations to join us together by beseeching God the Father for the for proposed intentions!

Intercontinental Mass Time

- Ore 8.00 U.S.A., Messico, Guatemala
- Ore 9.00 Colombia
- Ore 11.00 Argentina, Cile, Paraguay
- Ore 12.00 Brasile
- Ore 14.00 Ghana
- Ore 15.00 Italia, Nigeria, Congo, Polonia, Svizzera, Spagna
- Ore 16.00 Romania, Nazareth
- Ore 17,00 Tanzania
- Ore 19.30 India
- Ore 21,00 Vietnam
- Ore 22.00 Filippine
- Ore (+)1,00 Isole Solomon

On the occasion of Advent the Superior with the General

Council sent all the confreres the second Training

Notebook on the theme: "The Guanellian Spirit"



Congregation News



Consecration Events

- ✓ February 11 at Poonamallee (India) there was the priestly ordination of the Confreres **Selvam Raja Arun; Chinnappan Jesudoss; Vincent Johnson; Saminathan Periyamayagam (Kumar); Christopher Paul Dhinakaran; Velpula Rambabu; Gorrepati Sureshbabu; Xavier Thambu Samy.**
- ✓ July 27, at Kinshasa (RDCongo) **Philemon Lukumu Ladzus, Sylvain Mbalanda Sieta, Arnold Mata Mbunga, Jean-Pierre Bokafo Betoko.**
- ✓ In Nigeria, during the months of July and August, were ordained **Donald Eke, Bonaventure Onwukwe, Ali Moses Ibrahim, Sunday Apeh.**
- ✓ In India, at Chennai-Poonamallee on August 31st, received the priestly ordinations: **Pasanaganti Devanandam, Marteen Jeyaseelan, Issac Vinnarasan, Viagappan Maria Antony Rajan, Sebastian Packia Raj.**
- ✓ In Italy. At Barletta, was ordained the 7th of September **Domenico Rizzi**, belonging to the Roman St. Joseph Province.
- ✓ October 26 at Manila (Philippines) was ordained priest **Alfie Matulac.**
- ✓ January 5, 2020 there will be the ordination in Mexico of **Jorge Manuel Pabón Rodríguez**, while on December 16 **Agustín Márquez Abad** will be ordained in the Cathedral of Puebla.



Instituted Ministers

- ✓ In India, in the Poonamallee seminary, on October 25 the following confreres made their declaration of intents and received the Ministry of Lector and Acolyte: **Declaration of Intent** (Bro. Sesu Raj Phiomin Raja e Bro. Kota Yesu Babu); **Lector** (Bro. Sammanasanathan John Bosco e Maria Louis Sachin Son); **Acolyte** (Sebastiyan Arockianathan, Bro. Marianathan Bosco Yesuraj, Bro. Louis Praveen Raj, Bro. Merugu Anil, Bro. Gali Raja Ratnam).
- ✓ On December 19, 2019 the seminarian **Joseph Pham Dinh Kiet** will be installed as Lector in Vietnam.
- ✓ On December 19, 2019 the clerics of the 1st Year of Theology will make their Declaration of Intent, in Rome, **Ch. Da Silva Adriel Wilson** and **Ch. Duru Uchechukwu Bartholomew**, in the presence of the Superior General, Fr Umberto Brugnoli, in the Seminar "Mons. Bacciarini".



In His Father's House

❖ Guanellian family and deceased relatives of the Confreres

- ✓ October 6, Sunday **Sr. Anna Palermo** died. She spent almost all her consecrated life in the houses of the Guanellian confreres. she was 91 years of age, 45 of them spent among the confreres (1971 – 1988 at Alberobello; 1988 – 2015 at St. Joseph Trionfale).
- ✓ October 6, **Mr. Christopher Anamelechi**, after a prolonged sickness. He was Fr. Jude's paternal uncle, acting as a father after his father's death.
- ✓ October 12, at Nuova Olonio, **Mrs. Maria Carla Folonaro**, aged 83, the sister of Fr. Adriano.
- ✓ October 22, in Andhra Pradesh (India) **Mrs. Pramila**, maternal aunt of Fr. Suresh Gorrepati.
- ✓ October 29, in our Home at Nuova Olonio, aged 95, **Mrs. Caterina Capparoni**, the mother of our confrere Fr. Bruno, returned to the Father.
- ✓ November 7, we lost **Ms. Lina Santander**, former director of the Don Guanella Centre at Floridablanca (Columbia), and national co-ordinator of the Guanellian Cooperators in Colombia.
- ✓ November 8, at Ponnananinatham, Tamil Nadu (India), **Mrs. Agathumary**, maternal grandmother of Fr. A.C. Periyannayagam, at age 80.
- ✓ November 10, **Mrs. Octavie Kwangata**, in R.D.Congo the aunt of Bro. Blaise Mukampiel.
- ✓ November 12, at Medavakkam, Chennai (India), **Mr. Thomas**, brother-in-law of Fr. Kumar.
- ✓ November 12, also **Miss Felicia Onwukwe**, aunt of Fr. Bonaventure (in Nigeria).
- ✓ November 26, **Mr. Antony Samy**, aged 63, passed away, the beloved father of our confrere Fr. Adaikalam, novice master in Bangalore (India).
- ✓ November 29 is dead il **Mr. Pedro Feldkircher**, brother of Don Selso Feldkircher, in Goiania, Brazil
- ✓ **Mrs Amparo Fernandez**, of the lay Guanellian movement and wife of Justo Sanz, died in Spain on 3 December.



More News from the Congregation

- ✓ Sunday, October 6, the first Sunday of October, the Guanellian Family celebrated **the Guanellian Mission Sunday**, to revive the missionary spirit we received from our charism as Guanellians.
- ✓ October 14th to 18th: The 18th **Assembly of the Santa Cruz Province** took place at Porto Alegre (Brazil), on the theme: 'Jesus Christ, the Father's missionary. Our journey towards unification, and vocations animation'. Fr. Gustavo De Bonis was present to represent the General Council.

✓ On October 19 **Brother Marcin Mistur** pronounced his Perpetual Profession in the hands of the Provincial Superior Fr. Alessandro Allegra, in our House at Skawina (Poland). Br. Marcin is the first Polish Guanellian Brother.

✓ **The House “San Giuseppe”** in Rome, Via Aurelia Antica opened the celebration of their centenary year of foundation (October 19, 1919), while “Casa Sereni” at Perugia celebrated 60 years of Guanellian presence.

✓ The 20th of October at Saigon (HoChiMin City), during his visit to this recent Guanellian community, the Superior General celebrated with the confreres the **10th anniversary of Guanellian presence in Vietnam.**

✓ On October 24 the confreres **Francisco de Assis de Holanda and Francisco Erivan Nascimento dos Santos** renewed their vows in S. Pio X Seminary at Tapiales (Argentina).

✓ The same day, the confrere **Alvaro Barrios** from Colombia renewed his religious consecration at Chapas (Guatemala), where he is doing his practicum.

✓ Again, on the same day, in the chapel of the “Don Guanella Major Seminary” at Chennai (India) the seminarians **Sesu Raj Phiomina Raja and Kota Yesu Babu** expressed their declaration of intents; **Sammanasu John Bosco and Maria Louis Sachin Son** received the ministry of Lector; **Sebastiyan Arockianathan, Marianathan Bosco Yesuraj, Louis Praveen Raj, Merugu Anil, Gali Raja Ratnam** received the ministry of Acolyte.

✓ Finally, on the same celebration of the Feast of St. Louis Guanella, **Isaac Terkula Sombu** pronounced his perpetual profession at Ibadan (Nigeria)

✓ Saturday, October 26 at **Ibadan Isaac T. Sombu** was ordained deacon in the House of Providence by the hands of Most Rev. Gabriel Leke Abegurin, metropolitan Archbishop of Ibadan.

✓ On the same date, October 26, the Guanellian confreres in **Poland** celebrated the **10th anniversary of the House of Skawina.**

✓ From November 26 to 28 there was at “**Guanella Bavan**”, **Koppaka, Andhra Pradesh**, the yearly tutorate meeting for the young confreres, organized by the Provincial superior Fr. Ronald and the Provincial Councilor Fr. Francis, who guided the young confreres present.

✓ September 2020: **formators’ course.**

✓ 2021: **General Consultation.**

Canonical Visitation of the Superior:

- October 2019: Philippines, Vietnam
- 30 November - 5 December: Germany
- 12 - 18 December 2019: Poland

Visits from the Council to the communities:

- 22 October - 9 November 2019, Padre Rathinam e Padre Nava: Nigeria (Africa)
- 15 - 20 December 2019, don Mario Nava in Romania.