



Guanella NEWS

Curia Generalizia - Vicolo Clementi, 41 - Roma - www.operadonguanella.it

'Letter for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart'

Dear Confreres,

Taking in your hands the Exhortation of Pope Francis "Gaudete et Exsultate", you had probably come across that personal and stimulating, direct invitation: "Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God ; turn to Him in every situation. Do not be discouraged, because you have the power of the Holy Spirit that makes everything possible; holiness, after all, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. Gal 5,22-23). When you feel the temptation to cling to your weakness, look up at the Crucifix and say: "Lord, I am a poor man, but you can perform the miracle of making me a little bit better". In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness. The Lord has bestowed on the Church the gifts of the Word, the Sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the saints, and a multiform beauty that proceeds from the love

of the Lord, "like a bride adorned with jewels" (Is 61.10) "(Gaudete et exsultate, No. 15). Dear confreres, not always the holy gifts are producing in us holiness, not always a holy ministry sanctifies us; likewise the grace of living among the poor does not always makes us holy; it could happen to us too what St. Paul feared for the community of Corinth, "to receive the grace of God in vain" (2 Cor 2, 6). It is necessary that we let the Lord's grace act in us. Let us not oppose resistance to whatever



beautiful and great He wants to do in us and with us. This Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, to us guanellians particularly significant, leads us to the center and spring of our Founder's spirituality: the Heart of Christ is the heart of the tender Father in

love with the whole humanity: May He rekindle in each of us the decision to love the Lord and to concretely realize his will which is the source of holiness and happiness.

Many obstacles stand in the way of this commitment and we, in our frequent weaknesses, do not always exercise that due vigilance needed to safeguard God's gift.

I think above all of the heaviness of the routine, that causes sometimes in us the risk of getting used to things that should instead fascinate and excite us with their beauty; routine affects the reception of God's gift, reducing its transforming power and making insignificant even extraordinary things, such as community life or prayer, sacramental life or mission.

I think also of the anxiety that comes from a frantic, breathless life style; in this regard we are experiencing perhaps a radical change if compared to the first generations of confreres who carried a heavy load of work, but were not oppressed by the anxiety affecting our generation; to the previous generations the rhythm, place and quality of work was more regularly set up, while today we are facing abrupt changes and jumps that generate anxiety.



Our first task in taking care of ourselves is the removal of obstacles between the good, through a wise discernment; then we need to nurture fidelity to our commitments, in our case, to priestly ordination, to the vows and promises expressed by our religious consecration that today we renew out of devotion, in line with our Founder's desire.

In my Homily for the Perpetual Religious Profession of 11 confreres in Como on May 26, I recalled the commitment of Fr Guanella on his priestly ordination. I recall it again today on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

"Don Luigi entered with extraordinary determination in the journey of his priesthood.

"I want to be a sword of fire in the holy ministry," he wrote in a letter to his first Mass godfather, Fr Francesco Adamini, a month before his ordination.

"I want to be". We sense here the impetus of a man who commits himself with determination, with a clear orientation toward a specific goal, not taking things easy, not wavering nor simply waiting for orders. There is here an inner question regarding personal identity "who do I want to be"?

"A sword of fire". It was the weapon of the cherubs, according to the Genesis account, and was used to fight three scourges, in the Apocalypse language. (war, pestilence, famine). It stresses, in other words, the struggle and the sacrifice, the determination and the courage, the zeal and the risk. Not a life dull nor dragged in a defensive position to protect one's comfort, lived lazily, in low tones, but a life fired up by passion equal to martyrdom".

The Good Lord has placed us on the road of such a great witness, our Founder. Let us look at him as our teacher and model in our attempt to realize the Father's project assigned to us in this world and in which we are involved, in spite of our frailty and misery.

In expressing then my best wishes to all of you my confreres Servants of charity, on this

joyful celebration, we exhort one another to be challenged by our Founder's programmatic vision, at the dawn of his ministry and to implement it with the same passion and intensity that he has shown to us.

Above all, paradoxically, I would like to point out this 'vision' to our Religious Brothers, who have not received the Holy Orders but who are sharing with us the common priesthood as baptized and consecrated religious men. How many times in the history of our religious family our lay Brothers have been and still are like mirrors that serve to us ordained members to see incongruences and delays in our priestly life! To them I like to say: " Help us to become aware of what we should be

and we are not ; while we offer you out priestly service, point out to us, though your exemplary life, what is still lacking in our witness and ministry. If you will not tell us, as our bothers in the family spirit, others will do it, perhaps in different ways and tones. Best wishes dear confreres, in these days of memorial celebration so dear to us all. Everyone, nobody excluded, is integral member of our family that every day you contribute to make more beautiful and meaningful, through your life and mission.

For this, I thank you whole-heartedly!

Rome 06 June 2018,

P. Umberto Bagnasco



“Through the ways of heart”

One month after my election



I wish to share with you some words on how I feel, a month after taking up my new responsibility. I simply sense that I have answered just another call; such is our life journey, moving from a call to another, until the last one!

I feel that I said yes to Providence, who has her own itineraries. Mine could have appeared as something foreseeable; but I assure you that it was not, at least in my heart. My long permanence in the General Council, preceded by responsibilities also on a provincial level, has been certainly a grace filled experience that has helped me to grow as man and consecrated person; on the other side it has also caused some strain and stress along with a sense of fatigue and tiredness accompanied by a natural aspiration to go back to pastoral ministry among the poor, a service that I have always considered more in line with my capacities and personality. I feel now serene because I have obeyed and also because of the support of many of you whose closeness I have immediately felt, from the Chapters members to the outgoing General Council, to the all those who have called or written, confreres, sisters, lay people, all expressing encouragement with an enthusiasm much higher than mine... I cannot, on the other hand, hide to you some fears. You know me. I have been inside the Guanella family for the past sixty years and so I have had the opportunity to approach almost all of you, some more closely. You know me and so do not expect many surprises, except those whom the Lord will suggest and elicit. You know my limitations and defects and you will offer me that gift of patience that God uses with me and with you; patience that I promise to practice and show toward you from this very beginning. In my next visit to Barza, I will walk through that hall where the pictures of all the superiors who have guided our Family after don Guanella are exposed. I will draw inspirations from our more than centennial history to receive help in the discernment of my personal journey and in that of the Congregation. If I let that sequence of pictures pass in front of my mind, my first impression would be that of wonder. I neither have the virtues of Don Bacciarini, nor the deep knowledge of our Founder typical of Don Mazzucchi; I don't have the initiative of Don Alippi nor the ascetical qualities of Don De Ambroggi; I don't possess the meek firmness of Don Budino nor the refined style of Don Olimpio; I am very far from the clarity of mind of the brilliant Don Pasquali, from the orderly competent and accurate work of Don Minetti, from the lively articulacy and attentive analysis of Don Alfonso. Nothing of the above. I am the one you know and please be very patient with me. I promise not to spare any effort. I assure you that, if my mind and body will cooperate, I will fully dedicate myself to this new call of the Lord, relying on the support of my official councilors and the help of all of you whom I consider my personal councilors.

News di Congregazione

Eventi di Consacrazione

✓ Il 30 giugno a Itabuna-BA in Brasile, sarà ordinato sacerdote il nostro confratello Diacono **Tiago Santos da Silva** per l'imposizione delle mani di S. E. R Mons. Protógenes Luft, SdC, Vescovo di Barra do Garças.

✓ Il 21 luglio a Piripiri- PI in Brasile, sarà ordinato sacerdote il nostro confratello Diacono **Francisco Bernardone dos Santos Costa** per l'imposizione delle mani di S. E. R Mons. Protógenes Luft, SdC, Vescovo di Barra do Garças.

Nella Casa del Padre

Familiari dei Confratelli defunti

✓ Il 29 maggio è deceduto a Bari all'età di 85 anni il **Sig. Francesco Colafemina**, papà dei nostri confratelli P. Enrico e P. Donato.

✓ Il 1 giugno è tornata alla casa del Padre la **Sig.na Giovanna Nava**, sorella del nostro confratello P. Mario Nava.

✓ Il 3 giugno è deceduta a 60 anni, la **Sig.ra Dora Venerito**, sorella del nostro confratello P. Pino Venerito.

Amici e cooperatori defunti

✓ Il 5 maggio è deceduta ad Asunción, la **Sig.na Angélica Castellano Cardozo**, giovane collaboratrice della Parrocchia San Miguel in Paraguay

✓ Il 29 maggio è tornato alla casa del Padre **Francesco D'Incecco**, collaboratore nelle case guanelliane di San Giuseppe e Santa Maria della Nocetta a Roma.

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