



Guanella NEWS

Notiziario della Casa Generalizia dei Servi della Carità - Anno XXII (II Serie) - Direzione e Redazione: Centro di Comunicazione

Elderly persons are like trees that continue to bear fruit

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Out of Kabul: what of PBK?

Since the announcement that the NATO and USA troops were to be withdrawn, the board of the Pro Bambini di Kabul Association started reflecting with concern about... (pag.4).

General Council Program 2021 - 2022

We follow the scheme of the program for the term 2018 - 2024 that was presented in November 2018 to the Provincial Superiors and Vicars at the beginning of the term... (pag.5).

Synod And Synodality

Not Just An Event, But A Process. October 10th will see the opening of the Synod of Rome and the World Church, with the Mass celebrated... (pag.13).



'Elderly persons are like trees that continue to bear fruit'

"Elderly persons are like trees that continue to bear fruit: even under the load of their age, they can give their peculiar contribution for a society rich in values and for the success of the culture of Life" (Papa Francesco, speech on 15 October 2016).

Dear Confreres,

This month of September marks in several Countries the resuming of the social year, in other places we are in the midst of activities and commitments of social life, work, school, formation. I encourage all to go on with spirit of faith and availability in whatever obedience is asking of us. The sad event of the death of Fr. Roberto Carlos Corvalan opens again our reflection on the will of God for our Congregation. In the last years, this is the fourth young confrere, still in activity, called by the Lord. We are sure that they are not lost, but gained in paradise as protectors and supporters of our mission, but meanwhile these are new and beautiful energies that leave empty spaces in our houses, which we hardly find a way to occupy again. In many places of the Congregation the confreres of middle or advanced age are running the

Works, assure the charismatic presence among the recipients of our apostolate. This is why I chose this sentence of the Pope as the theme for this reflection.

The sentence I take from the Holy Father's speech offers me the opportunity for a thought of hope, of impulse and gratitude for all the confreres, but particularly for those who, with the burden of years, live their existence serving the Work with all possible good will, but also with some notes of disappointment, of inability to keep up with times and with new ways of living the mission and of living it within a religious community set up for this task. I want to keep in mind also those confreres who would like to give more and have the necessary strength, but unfortunately often the criterion of excessive prudence

prevails, and makes us unmovable to be safe on all sides, closed to any attempt of something new. Covid-19, for some of us, has clipped the wings of trust, of creativity, of service as a duty. Fear hinders our movement!

Thus, I would like to shoot an arrow in favour of those who are unfortunately forced to look at how the situation is evolving, without any possibility to enter the game and state their opinion, more open to hope, without abandoning prudence.

The Pope reminded us: times are changing, modes of language and of

practical action in service are different, even in our institutions, they are more demanding and regulated, but the presence of a confrere, though burdened by age, is always a "peculiar contribution for a society rich in values and for the success of the culture of Life".

In the coming months throughout the Congregation we will celebrate the Provincial Chapters and the Delegation Assemblies: these are fundamental moments, this time also to reflect on what is the place of the religious community within an institution, what should be new in community life as referred to the mission of a house, how we should interact with the mission of the house or with other aspects offered by the spiritual heritage of the charism as a new opportunity that should be tested and applied practically. Surely, I am not inviting to review the charism, we have done it, and well, and we have, especially in the Addenda to the Constitution the new elements of our charismatic service. We also have, available, the text "ad experimentum" of the Regulations, where the rich motions and proposals of the recent General Chapters are collected. What a mine of materials, confreres. But it requires to be explored and enacted!

What could we say about our holy Founder's mission? A few months before his death, tired and ill, he ran to Avezzano to rescue the victims of the earthquake and to carry to Rome all the orphaned children found among the ruins of the destroyed houses. He didn't stay at the widow to watch what was going on and what others were doing; he found outside his Home the urgent needs that were challenging him and giving him restless nights. "We



can never stop, as long as there are some poor to be rescued and some needs to be provided for" (LDP 1894). He was always moved and supported by the example of his reference model, Jesus Christ, lively represented in the body of every poor person on earth. *"We should give our hands, our mind, our heart, even to become a victim for the poor of Jesus Christ, because it is written that the Good Shepherd gives his life for this sheep"* (R. 1905).

Therefore, my exhortation is to learn how to draw new wine from the wineskins of our charismatic heritage. Don't be afraid to enter the game again, in a different way from what you lived before. Don't give up for the signs, even visible, that old age is there, strength is decreasing, while ailments are increasing, involvement in the mission becomes more demanding and difficult, community life today assumes and amplifies the relationship difficulties.



Pope Francis reminded us that ***"elderly persons are like trees that continue to bear fruit"***. He seems to accomplish Don Guanella's thought

that "the sun is more beautiful at sunset" "the (La settimana con Dio, n. 46) Sometimes we become aware of the small production of our branches, but if we don't lose hope feeling defeated and disappointed, in the new season, among the leaves, we will see some more fruits, or even many. Confreres, the charism is not extinguished nor dead, but more than ever alive to give us strength, courage and trust in Providence for the Congregation to give start to 10 new openings as a sign of gratitude to God for the canonisation of our Founder.

I want to send to all, with my wishes for the resumed or deepened activity, the strength and trust that the Church still has in us religious persons. The church urges us to "Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things ... *Be always ready, faithful to Christ, the Church, to your Institute and to the men and women of our time. In this way you will day by day be renewed in Christ, in order with his Spirit to build fraternal communities, to join him in washing the feet of the poor, and to contribute in your own unique way to the transfiguration of the world.*" (VC 110).

I wish all of you to desire all the possible good!

P. Umberto

Out of Kabul: what of PBK?

Since the announcement that the NATO and USA troops were to be withdrawn, the board of the Pro Bambini di Kabul Association started reflecting with concern about the future.

The PBK Association was founded by Fr. Giancarlo Pravettoni SC and gathers several

religious congregations, for almost twenty

years the association managed a special school for children with mild and medium disability at Kabul, with the work of a small inter-congregational community of Sisters (for many years one Daughters of St. Mary of Providence was there) and with the effort of our Br. Carlo Fondrini SC as education and administration director, who was visiting the place twice a year. In view of the arrival of the Taliban, we were planning to hand over the activity with the staff to a local NGO, in order to withdraw the Sisters and to continue at least with the financial support to



the school.

The events came quickly on, and at the same time the Taliban removed the mask of relative tolerance they seemed to have, arriving at the “may-day” we all have witnessed.

After some days of panic, with the sisters into hiding and the teachers locked inside their homes, almost all happily reached safety: the Indian Sister of “Maria Bambina” reached India, the Sister of St. Jeanne Antida arrived in Italy, together with 14 of the 16 families of staff and persons involved in our activity. On September 10th, at the end of the quarantine period, these families will find their temporary refuge in the different religious congregations in Italy. We the Guanellian Family are taking charge of the family of one of our lady teachers (seven persons) who will live in a wing of the House S. Maria alla Nocetta, provided by the Guanellian Sisters.

The complete charge will last one year, with the effort to help them enter into another language, school, work, society. For the moment the matter is to help them forget the fear and start a little way of communication ... the rest will come.

We also hope there will be the possibility for the other two families, still in Kabul, to reach Italy. P.B.K. for the moment wants to face this emergency and support these families, and we were happy to find generosity in the Congregations offering their hospitality.

Only in future we will know if it will be possible to reopen the special school, or start any activity in Kabul, or maybe even direct our efforts towards other areas, as difficult for the local populations and particularly for the disabled children.

General Council Program 2021 – 2022

We follow the scheme of the program for the term 2018 – 2024 that was presented in November 2018 to the Provincial Superiors and Vicars at the beginning of the term. Thus, it is lacking for many themes that are present in our Constitutions. We also refer to what the 20th General Chapter was asking directly to the General Council.

◆ Reorganising the Congregation

1). We have in program to create by the end of 2023 a single Province S. Luigi Guanella, covering the houses of the two Italian provinces. The Delegation St. Louis Guanella will continue as a Delegation dependent from the General Council until the time it will How are we going on about this?

a). **September 2021:** celebration of the Provincial Chapters of the two Italian Provinces.

b). **October 2021:** celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Founder's canonisation and the 30th anniversary of Sr. Clare beatification. See the program of the committee.

c). **November – December 2021:** fraternal visit of the Superior General to the Italian communities. It is not a canonical visit (recently done by the two Provincial Superiors) but a fraternal visit (two days in each community: personal dialogue with the confreres, conclusive community meeting; usual celebrations together).

d). **Juridical status of the General Curia:** it will be instituted for the Italian Law as a different Ecclesiastic person from the present "Provincia italiana dei Servi della carità-Opera don Guanella". Following the norms of our Constitutions and Regulations, the procedures in relationship between the two Italian Provinces and General Curia will be better clarified. As an organ mediating the passage there will be the Board including General Superior and Treasurer and the two Provincial Superiors and Treasures.

e). **January 10th to 13th, 2022** will see the celebration of the General Consultation with physical presence of the confreres. The theme is "Dwell the Community and the Mission with your heart". The venue is the Bacciarini Seminary in Rome.

f). **After the General Consultation:** Renewal of the Provincial Councils' mandate for a year, or an alternative solution.

2). **Transfer the General Curia to Via Aurelia Antica:** Considering several situations not yet defined in Via Aurelia, about the economic situation (urgent works for the Church), and the general setting of the rehabilitation centre (evaluation about restructuring or reconstructing the Pius XII building), the relocation of their administrative block is impossible for now, therefore the General Council has renounced the idea of moving the Curia to Via Aurelia Antica during this term. We hope it will be done in the future by those who will follow in service.

◆ Formation

a). During the past three years, several unifications and also sales of buildings of formation houses have been done by the General Council in Latin America, India, Africa.

b). For the **Theological Seminary in Rome**, we need to wait for the future General Chapter in 2024. For the coming three years it will continue to function as in the past. The formation team is confirmed.

- For this academic year there shall be 16 students: 10 for the fundamental cycle, 4 for the Specialistic, 2 priests in the priestly community. The Theological Seminary is also taking charge of those confreres who are destined to mission outside their Province and have to pass through Italy for some months in order to get the necessary traveling permits.
- 4 confreres are still there to help and accompany: Fr. Samson Rajasekaran (Rector), Fr. Anthony Azubuikwe (Vice-rector and student), Fr. Dante Camurri (Spiritual Director and accompanying the priestly community) and Fr. Alfonso Crippa (for the charism).

c). More attention and follow-up from the councillor in charge of the geographical area for the **seminary formation in Africa, India, Manila**. In particular, if the pandemic situation allows, in the coming three years:

- More presence of Provincials, Vice-Province Superior and Delegates;
- Programmed presence of the General Councillor of the area;
- Mandatory is reviewing the Seminary project within this academic year;
- Give practical guidelines about the formative method (e.g. frequent personal dialogue, spiritual direction, evaluations involving past formators, times for charism, community life, apostolate).
- Focus and reference to the Ratio formationis generalis and the Guanellian Ratio. Translation of the Comment to the Constitutions (to be completed in all languages by the end of our term).
- Continued attention of the procedure for preparation to final vows on the given lines, approved by the 20th General Chapter. Separate the Report to the General Superior at the beginning of the preparation from the Report to the Provincial at the end of the process, for the admission.
- Collaboration with the Formation Houses by on-line conferences as a support for formation. The Rector should suggest the themes (following the Congregation guidelines).

d). Permanent Formation::

- Continues the Advent publishing, with a fourth formation booklet. After the past three on Charism, Spirit, Mission, this year it will be on “the Charity of Christ brings us together”, the Community life (Const. 17 – 28).
- The Provinces are encouraged to continue, for those who had some initiatives, or to begin, for those who didn't, always involving also the laity (e.g. the “Scuola del carisma)
- Programme a general encounter for different sectors: formators, superiors, treasures. This could be done with physical presence or on-line.
- Encourage what the Provinces and Delegations are doing already, that they may continue regularly (meetings for superiors, treasures, pastors etc.)
- Presence of General Council also in these meetings of superiors or pastors for themes brought by the General Curia or simply to be closer in presence or on-line.
- A quarterly program with several actors and several languages on Brother Giovanni Vaccari, after the opening of the process of beatification in Palencia (Spain).
- Reviewing and then reprinting the Basic Document for Guanellian Mission. A committee has been set for this.
- We are studying possible initiatives to move with the Church in the journey to the Synod of Bishops “For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission”.

◆ F Guanellian Family

- Encourage the relationship with the DSMP, the GC, GLM at all levels, even though the GLM is now the responsibility of each Provincial or Delegate, without a central international organ.
- The councillors in charge will prepare a detailed calendar for common moments with the Sisters and Cooperators.
- Father General shall hold a meeting every two/three months with Mother General and with the Cooperators president.
- We continue the meeting, twice a year of the two General Councils. On October 2nd there will be a meeting of the three Councils (SoC, DSMP, GC).
- We offer our co-operation to the Sisters in their General Chapter for whatever required.
- Complete the final draft of the Charter of Communion for the Guanellian Family.
- Enact the motions and proposals of the 20th Gen. Chapter about collaboration and involvement of the Guanellian Family.
- Encouraging an supporting the common projects with the Sisters (PMG, Romania, Tapiales, Kinshasa, etc.).
- Encourage the World Cooperators Council.

- Propose to Provincials and Delegates to entrust to the MLG some social and pedagogical themes.

◆ I Dependent from the General Council

Centro Studi guanelliani

- * Represents the General Council: Fr. Nico
- * Theological Seminary Library (structural repairs; books to preserve).
- * Publications: "Rivista Storica" del CSG, Booklet on Holiness for October, in preparation the Life of Brother Giovanni Vaccari and the booklet on the three youth (Angélica Beatriz Castellano Cardozo, Pierpaolo Conti and Achillus Emeribe Chikwado).

Centro comunicazioni

- * Guanella News.
- * Website.
- * In-charge: Fr. Gustavo De Bonis.
- * Continues to follow Congregation events. A window "About Br. Giovanni Vaccari".
- * A window about the Guanellian October.

Presenza Missionaria guanelliana

- * We evaluated the work being done and how the initiatives involve the Congregation.
- * Formation of volunteers. Evaluation on method and persons, possible involvement of ASCI.

◆ Delegations dependent from the General Superior

Delegazione Europea San Luigi Guanella

- **Germany** / pastorale missione italiani e procura. Seconda comunità (VP Africana).
- **Arca**/ pastorale e animazione giovani sul cammino. Maggior attenzione alla PGV.
- **Romania**/ pastorale vocazionale, formazione, attenzione ai disabili e ai poveri. Nuove opere a Bucarest e a Iași per disabili. Progetto per i senza fissa dimora a Iași.
- **Polonia**/pastorale e animazione Centro per bambini. Costruzione appartamento per maggiorenni. La seconda comunità. Tema formativo per il Fratello, dopo il noviziato.

Delegazione Estremo Oriente Stella Maris

- **Filippine/** pastorale, formazione vocazionale/ Centri per disabili e per anziani/ Nuovo progetto formativo. Inserimento di alcuni confratelli (Africa – India).
- **Vietnam/** animazione e formazione vocazionale. Chiarezza per filosofia e non teologia a Saigon. Sostituto di padre Jerin Prasanna per il prossimo anno.
- **Isole Solomon/**pastorale. Verificare nei prossimi anni come possiamo sostenere i confratelli presenti, dando il cambio o accompagnandoli con presenze occasionali, saltuarie. La pandemia ha reso tutto questo impossibile.

◆ **Text of General Regulations.** A committee has been set to evaluate and review the text ad experimentum, producing corrections and integrations.

◆ **Charitas:** continues to be published twice a year. The coming issue will be on the theme “The bond of charity, a prophetic word for the intercultural religious communities” with a contribution of Fr. Roberto Rossi.

◆ **Economy and administration:**

◆ At the end of three years, to favour Fr. Mario Nava who had expressed his difficulty for the workload on him, we tried to find other possibilities, but we were not able to find a feasible way out. This is why we confirmed Fr. Mario for the coming three years as General Treasurer. But we are seeing how to give him some support by removing something from his direct responsibility. The issue of Nova Domus will be handled by the Operative Board, and he will be helped by Fr. Santiago for the Guadalupe Province and by fr. Dennis for the DPP.

◆ **Tema del Terzo Settore in Italia.** Il Governo, per le Organizzazioni di volontariato, le Associazioni di promozione sociale e le Onlus, ha rimandato tutto al 31 maggio 2022. È stato corretto il numero che riguarda il tema del Patrimonio stabile su richiesta della Santa Sede e questo ci dà più serenità. Decidiamo di attendere la celebrazione dei due Capitoli provinciali italiani, accoglieremo l’apporto delle loro riflessioni e poi prenderemo decisioni con i Provinciali.

◆ **Rappresentante Legale per l’Italia**

◆ Confermiamo don Alfonso Crippa in attesa che la nuova Provincia italiana San Luigi Guanella-Opera don Guanella decida diversamente.

◆ **Visita canonica:** Nel primo triennio del nostro mandato il Superiore ha visitato già diversi Paesi della Congregazione per la Visita canonica. La pandemia ha rallentato il

procedere. Abbiamo deciso per il prossimo anno: Visita fraterna delle comunità italiane (novembre-dicembre 2021), due/tre giorni in ogni comunità.

Mancano poi le nazioni: Brasile, Argentina, Guatemala, Colombia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana, Isole Solomon, Spagna, Romania. Il Superiore generale programmerà con i rispettivi Superiori e Delegati tali visite.

◆ **Consulta generale:** Verrà celebrata di presenza in Seminario a Roma dal 10 al 13 gennaio 2022 come da calendario già stabilito. È già stata inviata la lettera di indizione il 15 agosto; si attende ora che ogni Provincia, attraverso una consultazione dei confratelli, scelga un confratello che accompagnerà il Superiore a Roma. Per chi non potrà essere presente a causa delle limitazioni della pandemia c'è la possibilità di collegamento online.

◆ **XXI CG:** During the coming General Consultation a decision will be taken about the date of the 21st General Council: since for the pandemics all the evaluation moments (Provincial Chapters, Assemblies) have been postponed for a year, the Gen. Chapter may also need to be postponed for some months.

◆ **Sinodo dei Giovani.**

- ◆ Celebrazione della Giornata mondiale della Gioventù a Lisbona (per noi da Arca) nel 2023.
- ◆ Forse si potrebbe celebrare qualche iniziativa nostra per non perdere l'entusiasmo. Per ora non si è potuto fare nulla! Certamente continuare la sensibilizzazione.
- ◆ Sugeriamo ai referenti delle Province della PG di valutare l'idea di una giornata o due dei Giovani in occasione dell'anno 10° di canonizzazione del Fondatore.

◆ **Iniziative** da animare da noi durante l'anno. Se non di presenza, per videoconferenze.

- **Rapporti** con i Provinciali e i Delegati. Maggior loro coinvolgimento nelle scelte.
- **Incontro mondiale dei formatori/** Roma seminario settembre 2022
- **Incontro economi e collaboratori/** Roma 2022. Don Mario comunicherà la data.
- **Esercizi Spirituali:** È nata la commissione di animazione apposita tra SdC, FSMP e Laici G. Si è potuto fare ben poco. Quest'anno nulla a causa del covid, ma anche per la non sensibilizzazione fatta dei Confratelli, Consorelle e Cooperatori. Rilanciarli. Tentare anche esperienze di Esercizi online.
- **Processo di canonizzazione** di Fratel Giovanni Vaccari. Iniziative concordate con il Postulatore generale.

- **Accoglienza** dei profughi dell'Afganistan. Facciamo la nostra parte. Una famiglia di sette persone verrà ospitata nella Casa Santa Maria della Nocetta. Sia responsabilità di tutta la Famiglia guanelliana il collaborare al loro mantenimento.
- ◆ **Verifica Ruoli** di animazione nel Consiglio generale.
 - * Il Consiglio generale ha ripreso in considerazione i ruoli di ogni membro del Consiglio, ha valutato e poi confermato ogni componente nei ruoli dati all'inizio del nostro mandato.
 - * Si è anche riconfermata la programmazione della vita comunitaria della Casa generalizia.
 - * A causa del trasferimento di Fratel Enzo Gallo, il Consiglio ha ritoccato il ruolo di alcuni dipendenti per ottemperare alle mansioni che svolgeva Fratel Enzo.
- ◆ **Raduni del Consiglio generale:** il segretario ha steso una programmazione di date che manteniamo come riferimento, anche se qualche volta andranno riviste per impegni urgenti sopravvenuti.
- ◆ **Visite all'estero:** Ogni membro del Consiglio generale è stato invitato a stendere un programma di massima delle visite alle Province e Delegazioni che intende compiere nell'arco di quest'anno da presentare ai Provinciali e Delegati.

Alcune richieste fatte dal 20 CG direttamente al Consiglio generale.

- ✓ **Proposta 3.** Aggiornamento ecclesiologicalo e teologico del carisma

Il **Consiglio generale**, per tutti i Confratelli, programmi "Corsi di aggiornamento teologico-carismatico" in maniera continuativa.

- ***Abbiamo risolto la proposta con il quaderno formativo annuale (Tempo di Avvento).***

- ✓ **Proposta 14.** Implemento di Comunità interculturali

Per favorire l'arricchimento del carisma nell'incontro tra le culture, e per rafforzare la consapevolezza che ogni Confratello è per noi "il bene più caro" (Costituzioni, 19), il Capitolo generale chiede al Consiglio generale che, in dialogo con i Superiori e i Consigli provinciali e di Delegazione, implementi, ad ogni latitudine della Congregazione, la costituzione di Comunità interculturali; dove ritenuto opportuno, già a partire dalla prima formazione.

- ***Ormai sono diverse le esperienze messe in atto. Forse insistere di più sui principi stesi per chi è inviato e per chi accoglie l'inviato. Abbiamo ancora molto da imparare e fare su questo argomento.***

✓ **Proposta 15.** Vacanze dei Confratelli operanti in Province diverse da quella di origine
Il Capitolo generale suggerisce al Consiglio generale di rivedere l'ultimo decreto in materia di "vacanze dei Confratelli operanti in Province diverse da quella di origine".

● ***Annullato il Decreto e fornite linee guida sul tema lasciando ai Provinciali decisioni singole. Si raccomandava in quelle linee di tenere presente il tema della povertà, ribadiamo questo concetto perché eluso quest'anno in molti casi.***

✓ **Proposta 17.** Esperienze di promozione della "vocazione guanelliana"

Si invitano il Consiglio generale e Provinciali dei Servi della Carità a collaborare insieme alle Figlie di Santa Maria della Provvidenza e ai Guanelliani Cooperatori al fine di promuovere la vocazione alla vita consacrata guanelliana femminile e maschile, come pure la vocazione al Guanelliano Cooperatore. Insieme comincino a proporre esperienze di primo annuncio, di volontariato e di animazione.

● **Più volte nei nostri incontri con le Suore abbiamo chiesto che i nostri teologi in Roma, possano fare qualche esperienza formativa con le Juniores delle Suore. Sembra difficile poi concretizzare, ma sarebbe opportuno iniziare. Si raccomanda poi, dove c'è la compresenza di SdC e FSMP, la collaborazione e l'interscambio nella PG e in quella Vocazionale.**

Roma, 2/3 settembre 2021

Consiglio generale

Synod And Synodality

NOT JUST AN EVENT, BUT A PROCESS..

October 10th will see the opening of the Synod of Rome and the World Church, with the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in ST. Peter's Basilica, and the following 17th this

will be done in each particular Church. A fundamental step will be the celebration of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Bishop's Synod in October 2023: ***For a synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission.***



By this convocation, Pope Francis is inviting the entire Church to question herself about a crucial theme for her life and mission: "The path of synodality is the path God is expecting of the Third millennium Church".

The keyword of this Synod is synodality, that ***"recalls the typical style of the Church: it invites to fraternity, to mutual support, to do together the steps forward that allow to reach something, or better Someone who is attracting and inspiring us. It is a word that, rather than talking of an extraordinary time, underlines the grace present in every time of the Church's life, and that is given us when we march together"***.

THE SYNOD IS DONE BY STEPS.

First step: in the particular churches.

In each particular Church the People of God will be consulted, and each particular Church will send her contribution to the Bishops' Conference (October 2021).

Bishops' Conferences will prepare a summary to be sent to the Synod General Secretariat (April 2022), and the same will do the Theological Universities, the Unions of General Superiors (Female and Male), the International Lay Movements.

In September 2022 the Synod General Secretariat will produce the first Instrumentum Laboris.

Second step: in the continents.

A pre-synod discernment will be done in the Continental Assemblies. These will conclude their works with a final document, to be sent to the Synod General Secretariat (March 2023).

The Synod General Secretariat will produce the second Instrumentum Laboris (June 2023). Third step: at Rome.

Celebration of the Bishops Synod at Rome, following the procedure established by the Apostolic Constitution *Episcopalis Communio* (October 2023).

PREPARATORY DOCUMENT.

For this first step. The Holy Father has approved the Preparatory Document. “The purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands”. (see <http://www.synod.va/it/news/documento-preparatorio.html>).

This Document wants to be at the service of the synodal journey, particularly as a tool to help the first step of listening and consultation of the People of God in the particular Churches (October 2021 – April 2022), hoping to contribute to give impulse to ideas, energies and creativity in everyone.

SYNOD AND SYNODALITY.

The path of synodality is the path God is expecting from the third millennium Church. Council Vatican II proclaimed that “the totality of the faithful, having the anointing that comes from the Holy Spirit, cannot be wrong in believing (*sensus fidei*). The Flock also has its own “nose” to find new ways opened by the Lord to the Church. (Francesco, *Discorso in occasione dell'Incontro con il Clero, persone di vita consacrata, e membri di consigli pastorali, Assisi, 4 ottobre 2013*).

A *synodal Church is a listening Church*: one listens to the others, and all listen to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of Truth”, to know what He “tells to the Churches”. The fact that the Synod is acting always *cum Petro et sub Petro* is not limiting liberty, but granting unity.

Synodality gives us the interpretation frame to understand the hierarchy and its ministry. If we understand what St. John Chrysostom says, that “Church and Synod are synonyms”, because the Church is nothing else than God’s Flock “journeying together” on the path of history towards Christ the Lord – than we understand also that no one within the Church can be “elevated” above others. Rather, in the Church one has to “lower himself” to be serving the brethren along the way.

In this Church, as in an upside-down pyramid, the apex is under the base.

For Jesus’ disciples, yesterday, today, and always, the only authority is the **authority of service**, the only power is the power of the cross. “Whoever wants to be great among you shall be your servant” (Mt. 20:27). In a synodal Church, the Bishops’ Synod is only the clearest manifestation of a dynamism of communion that inspires all the Church decisions.

Guanellian October” 2021



- During the whole month of October, all the Houses should organise some initiatives in each community.

We suggest for the Thursdays, in each community:

Thursday, Oct. 7th, Guanellian Rosary: “Fr. Guanella and our Lady” (prepared by Fr. Nico, it will be sent by per e-mail)

Thursday, Oct. 14th, Eucharistic Adoration: “The Eucharist in Fr. Guanella’s thought” (Fr. Nico)

Thursday, Oct. 21st, Eucharistic adoration with vocational theme (Fr. Giovanni Amico)

The text for the celebrations will be translated and sent to all the confreres.

Solemn triduum: October 22 – 23 – 24

Friday 22nd: Day of penance and fast. Penitential liturgy also for the residents of our Houses.

Saturday 23rd: in the evening Eucharistic celebration involving also the Diocese where we are. Inviting Bishops and the People of God.

Sunday 24th: Liturgical feast of the Founder, in the different Houses.

Other Possible Initiatives:

1). "A month with Fr. Guanella", a multi-media service proposed day by day, 1st to 31st (Fr. François Luvunu)

Videos competition “Living potraits of Fr. Guanella”. (Fr. François Luvunu);

Don Guanella International Choir (Fr. François Luvunu).

2). **A present to our Founder.** For the new openings throughout the world, we suggest to have house blessing, or beginning of ministry, or inauguration during the days of Triduum. These are the new openings on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Founder’s canonisation: Bucarest, Iași (Romania), Warangal (India), Pangasinan (Philippines), Finisterre (Spain), Dar Er Saalam (Tanzania), Abor/parish (Ghana), Grosseto (Italy), Bethany (Israel), Augsburg (Germany).

3). Ask the Apostolic Prefecture for a **Private audience with the Holy Father**, maybe for some representatives of the Guanellian Family (at most 500 persons).

News di Congregazione

Notizie e Avvenimenti di Consacrazione

- ✓ Il 21 giugno i chierici **Eris Zeus Boquiron, Phan Van Dung e John Lellis Lofamia** hanno rinnovato la professione religiosa nelle mani del Superiore della Delegazione Stella Maris, don Luigi De Giambattista, a Manila (Filippine).
- ✓ Il 29 giugno, a Legazpi (Filippine), hanno emesso la Prima Professione i novizi **John Baptist Nguyen Dinh Cuong, Peter Bui Duc Phuc, Peter Khoa Nguyen Khac Hung, Peter Tran Van Tam**. Presente il Superiore di Delegazione, don Luigi De Giambattista, e altri confratelli da Manila: Dao, Hoang, Tam. Il Padre maestro don Charles Promiyo ha fatto gli onori di casa.
- ✓ Il Chierico **Tung** ha iniziato il suo Tirocinio al Guanella Home di Manila, Filippine.
- ✓ Il 6 luglio 2021 in Africa, nel Seminario Teologico di Ibadan, Nigeria, due confratelli: **Herman Mongi Ebale e Mark Iyaji Ekpo**, hanno emesso i voti perpetui.
- ✓ Dal 1° agosto l'Opera don Guanella ha ufficialmente iniziato l'animazione pastorale della **Basilica del Sacro Cuore in Grosseto** (Italia) con don Santino Maisano, don Giovanni Russo e don Maria Paulraj Kasparraj. La parrocchia di Grosseto è una delle 10 nuove aperture che la Congregazione guanelliana, in questo anno giubilare, intende inaugurare nel X Anniversario della Canonizzazione del Fondatore. L'apertura di questa Casa e la cura pastorale è affidata alle due Province italiane.
- ✓ Il 6 agosto sono entrati a Pangasinan (Filippine) tre **postulanti** nella 'Sacred Heart Formation House'. Il formatore dei postulanti, don Charlton Viray, durante la santa Messa, ha accolto: **Ariel V. Beduya** (Western Samar, Visayas), **Kristian B. Demellites** (Taguig City, Metro Manila), e **Christopher M. Tabifranca** (Manila City, Metro Manila).
- ✓ Il 7 agosto 2021, nel Duomo di Kinshasa, R. D. del Congo, è avvenuta la Ordinazione Sacra di **tre nuovi sacerdoti congolesi** Servi della Carità: **don Sedar Gabriel Ilumu, don Joseph Junior Baya Vangu, don Fabrice Kabitini**.
- ✓ L'11 agosto 2021, Mons. Antonio Guido Filippazzi, Nunzio Apostolico in Nigeria, nella Chiesa dell'Ascensione ad Ibadan, ha ordinato **Sacerdoti guanelliani don Patrick Lerkpen, don Valentine Patrick e don Philimon Likita**. Presenti, tra gli altri, il Superiore della Vice Provincia Nostra Signora della Speranza, don Kelechi Maduforo, e il Rettore del Seminario, don Vitus Unegbu.
- ✓ Il 14 agosto in India vi sono stati cinque nuovi sacerdoti guanelliani: **Anthony Raj Arun Kumar, Gali Bala Raja Rathnam, Merugu Anil, Pilla Vijay Kumar e Solomon Stalin** sono stati ordinati da Mons. George Anotonysamy, Vescovo di Chennai, nella Basilica cattedrale di San Tommaso di Chennai, capitale del Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ L'8 settembre, a Como, i novizi **Dawid Lis ed Artur Sleziak** emetteranno la loro **prima professione** religiosa. Dopo un anno di iniziazione alla vita religiosa guanelliana, guidati da don Domenico Scibetta, sono pronti a dire sì al Signore nell'Opera don Guanella. Accetterà i loro voti il Superiore generale.
- ✓ Lo stesso 8 settembre a Iasi, in Romania hanno iniziato il noviziato canonico, i primi novizi rumeni: **Josif Barticel e Andrei Gherguț**



Nella Casa del Padre



Confratelli defunti

✓ Il 29 agosto 2021, nella città di Santa Fe (Argentina), dopo un trapianto renale, ci ha lasciato il nostro confratello sacerdote **Roberto Carlos Corvalán**, di anni 46. Nettelakurichi.



Famiglia guanelliana e parenti defunti dei Confratelli

✓ Il 9 giugno 2021 è deceduto all'Ospedale di Trichy (India) il **Sig. Thiraviam**, di 85 anni, padre del nostro confratello don David Anburaj, attualmente nelle Filippine (Legazpi) con incarico di Economo della Delegazione Stella Maris.

✓ Il giorno della solennità dell'Assunta, il Signore ha chiamato a sé il **Sig. Alberto G. Cerbito**, fratello maggiore del nostro confratello Don Eduardo Dong Cerbito. Una morte improvvisa causata dal Covid lo ha colto a 64 anni.

✓ Il 21 agosto 2021 a Coccaglio (BS) è deceduto il fratello del nostro confratello don Battista Omodei, il **Sig. Franco Omodei**, all'età di 77 anni.

✓ Il 30 agosto 2021, presso l'Ospedale Valduce di Como, all'età di 93 anni, è tornato al Signore il **Sig. Elia Frasson**, padre del nostro confratello don Agostino Frasson, nativo di ARLUNO (MI), dove sono avvenuti i funerali.



Date dei prossimi Consigli Generali (date orientative, passibili di cambiamenti)

- **19-20 ottobre 2021**
- **17-18 novembre 2021**
- **15-16 dicembre 2021**
- **19-20 gennaio 2022**
- **16-17 febbraio 2022**
- **16-17 marzo 2022**
- **13-14 aprile 2022**
- **18-19 maggio 2022**
- **15-16 giugno 2022**
- **20-21 luglio 2022**